HOW TO START YOUR OWN COUNTRY

Princess Joan and Prince Roy at Sealand.

Erwin S. Strauss

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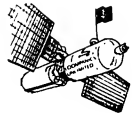
How You Can Profit from the Coming Decline of the Nation State

By Erwin S. Strauss



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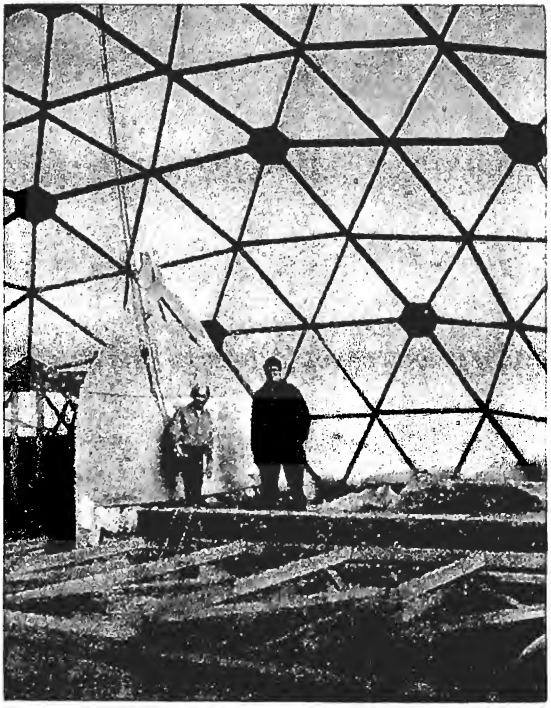

The author (right) stands with a member of Operation Atlantis, one of the many new country ventures described in this book (from* Atlantis News*).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erwin S. Strauss was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up along Embassy Row. He lived in Europe and Asia with his German-born father, a consul and First Secretary in the diplomatic service of the United States who served in American missions in Paris and Bangkok. After being expelled from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a book importing operation that undercut the campus bookstore and publishers owned by MIT and its faculty members, he returned there and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1967. Currently a consultant in the computer field, Mr. Strauss has conducted business activities in Canada, the United States, Costa Rica and Panama. He occasionally serves in a consulting capacity to new-country projects.

This book is dedicated to all the new country organizers of the world — past, present and future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank Frederick W. Lehmann and the International Micropatrological Society (society for the study of small countries) that he heads for greatly expanding the number of case histories with which I am familiar. I also wish to thank the publisher and all the other readers of the first edition of this book who have contributed information. Such a network of new-country enthusiasts is the best way to insure that future new-country projects move the state of the art forward, rather than repeating the mistakes of the past.

Most of the pictures in this book have been obtained from the projects themselves, or from the sources listed in the Access chapter. Attempts to contact many of the sources have been unsuccessful. It is assumed that the promoters involved would want the publicity associated with their publication here.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The first edition of *How to Start Your Own Country* has been enthusiastically received throughout the new-country community. A number of people who had each been working in the field for many years first became aware that there were others with the same ideas through the publication of that edition. One of the most important functions a book like this can perform is to get members of the new-country community in touch with each other, and to make them aware of the history of new-country projects. In that way, efforts can be directed toward advancing the state of the new-country art, rather than repeating the mistakes of the past. As a result of this nascent new-country network, I have been able to chronicle far more actual case histories in this edition than in the last.

I have also found that there is a great deal of interest in the pursuit of traditional sovereign status. Because of the difficulty of achieving that goal, I gave it comparatively cursory treatment in the first edition. However, because of this interest, I have gone into this approach in greater detail this time, providing a road map for those bold enough to follow that path.

Although the past few years have been lean ones for new-country projects, the principal older projects seem to be holding their own, and a number of new ones are underway. Perhaps the coming decade will be a Golden Age for new countries. If so, the readers of this book are in an excellent position to participate in such a flowering.

Erwin S. Strauss
Fairfax, VA
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THE CALL OF THE HORIZON

When in the Course of human Events it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them...
— Opening lines, United States Declaration of Independence

According to the prevailing view of natural historians, the first true human being emerged about one to ten million years ago, in a band of perhaps a dozen to a few score primates. This band subsisted by practicing some combination of hunting food animals and gathering edible plants and plant parts (roots, berries, etc.). With their new-found human powers, this band became very successful at getting food, and it flourished in numbers. Before long, the game and forage in its vicinity were depleted. It became necessary for the hunters and gatherers to range farther and farther afield in search of sustenance. Soon, it was taking almost as much energy to get the food as the food gotten provided. Faced with growing hunger, some members of the band hit on a solution: to break off from the original band, and form their own group in a new territory.

Thus was born the first "new country." Throughout prehistory, this sequence of events was to play itself out over and over again as the principal means by which perhaps the most successful form of life the Earth has ever seen spread out to occupy most of the planet's land surface. But waiting until hunger set in before striking out could mean that the new group would starve before it could get itself established in its new range. Therefore, natural selection favored those groups that split up when there was still adequate food, but when such things as the size of the group, the density of the population, etc., were such as to signal that the time to split up was at hand. But because, all other things equal, a larger

group has advantages in protection against predators, defense of territory against rival groups, etc., groups couldn't afford to split up too soon any more than too late. Timing was (and is) critical.

In today's crowded societies, once again many people are feeling the drive to break away from existing cultures and establish their own institutions. Ignorant of human history, most people treat such an idea with scorn. The world of the here and now is the only real world, they say. Talk of starting a new country is "escapism." One's duty is to direct one's energies toward making contemporary society a better place to live. And so on. But those who know better realize that schism is the fundamental human method for dealing with frictions within groups of people. In fact, it has been so for so long that factors predisposing people to break off from one group and start another may even have seeped into the human gene pool (though that's another and very controversial question).

After all, suppose that the members of the original human hunting/gathering band had decided to stay put and find a way to better distribute their finite food supply. At best, they could have held on in their same numbers for a time — until a season of unusually severe weather struck, or until some new disease emerged, or until a natural disaster happened, or until something else happened to wipe out the original group. Without other groups spread out to carry on the line, the human species would have become extinct. Diversity and dispersion are the great natural insurance policies. If those with the vision to make the fresh start had worked to keep the old society functioning instead, it would have been like the lifeboats trying to keep the Titanic afloat. If there are enough lifeboats for everyone, so much the better. But if only a few can save themselves, is it better to embrace the perfect "fairness" of having everyone go under together than to tolerate the "inequity" involved in having some save themselves to carry on?

But it's easy to let the romance of the new-country idea go to one's head. Actually planning and creating such a country is a complex, delicate process, and many people who have rushed into it have come to grief, as we shall see. The most important thing is to have a firm grasp of the cost and risks one is willing to accept in pursuit of the venture, and the benefits one is seeking. These

should be ranked in relative importance, so that when compromises need to be made (as they always do, in practice), the lesser values can be sacrificed to promote the greater. In the next chapter, we will look at five present opportunities for new-country promoters, and analyze the costs, risks and benefits associated with each. After that, we will look at the closely-related problems of internal organization and recruitment of settlers. Then, we will take a look at the prospects for new countries in the next century. Finally, we will review the history of a number of actual projects, identifying the achievements and mistakes of each. An Access chapter is also provided for those seeking further information.

PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES

When people begin to dream about starting a new country, usually one of the first things they think about is how the country is going to be structured internally. Some think of monarchy. Imagine! To be the liege lord of all you survey. Your word is law. Your wishes are commands. The lives of your subjects are your responsibility. Such a responsibility is a heavy burden, but the stout of heart do not shrink from the weight of the crown.

The thoughts of others turn toward republican forms of government. To follow in the footsteps of Washington and Jefferson, and create a *novus ordo seclorum*, a new order of the ages. A great deal of thought and ink has been applied to designing constitutions for new countries. Many of these plans draw heavily on existing documents like the U.S. Constitution. Some have come up with quite ingenious ways of dealing with perennial problems of state. The Access chapter in the back of this book identifies some examples of these schemes. Constitution writing can be a very pleasant way for planners of new countries to spend long winter evenings.

Other people have simpler visions. The formal structures of monarchies and republics are too convoluted for them. They look for a return to more fundamental and enduring values. Their thoughts hark back to the days of Athens or early Rome, where all citizens conferred to make the common decisions by consensus. This tradition has been recently embodied in the commune movement of the 1960's. But latter-day experiments have all had to live under the crushing weight of the existing political system. In a new country, such communities could stand or fall on their own merits alone.

All of these systems are potentially workable, under the right circumstances. But much of the thinking about such matters is

done in the context of a rosy fog of idealism. We will take a longer, closer look at these problems of internal organization later on. However, it can at least be said that people are thinking about these problems, which is more than can often be said about some other problems of new countries; problems which have proved fatal to new countries far more than problems of internal organization.

The problem that is most fundamental to a new country is simple survival. The greatest threat to a new country (assuming that its organizers are able to get it off the ground in the first place) is already-existing countries. How can a new country avoid being snuffed out by the established countries as soon as it comes into existence, or shortly thereafter? Grappling with this problem falls into the sphere of human activity known as diplomacy. But diplomacy is a complex business. It is very hard to understand what is going on in the diplomatic world at any time, especially for someone who is not a trained and experienced diplomat. Stripping away the inessential details, what's it really all about? What are all those people in striped pants really up to, anyway?

We will look at this question in the context of five approaches to new-country projects that are viable in the world today:

- Approach #1: Traditional Sovereignty
- Approach #2: Ship Under Flag of Convenience
- Approach #3: Litigation
- Approach #4: Vonu (Out of Sight and Mind)
- Approach #5: Model Country

After all of these have been discussed, we will compare their advantages and drawbacks. The approach of traditional sovereignty will be the point of departure in the discussion, since this is clearly the most desireable state of affairs to have (if the costs and risks of achieving it could be set aside).

Approach #1: Traditional Sovereignty

The requirements for a new country to be considered to have achieved the traditional status of a sovereign nation are conventionally thought of in terms of such things as membership in the United Nations, exchange of ambassadors with other sovereign

nations, acceptance of its passports at international boundaries, and so on. Actually, few nations completely achieve these goals. Many nations (Switzerland, for example) are not members of the United Nations. And for any given country, there are a number of others that, for one reason or another, do not choose to recognize it. But a nation that achieves a certain level of these tokens of recognition is generally regarded as having achieved traditional sovereignty. At any time, there are usually some entities that are borderline cases. For example, as of this writing the Republic of South Africa has declared that certain areas that were hitherto parts of the republic are now independent sovereign nations (Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda). However, no country besides South Africa has yet recognized them as such, and the status of persons holding passports from these nations is unclear. Their principal source of income appears to be the operation of gambling resorts in the parts of their territories closest to major South African cities (gambling is prohibited in the Republic of South Africa). By the way, this sort of activity shouldn't be overlooked as a source of income for any new country.

Achieving sovereign status is the most difficult of objectives that a new-country project can set itself, and only the most determined promoters should seek it. In this section, we will go over what is required to accomplish this goal.

The traditional juridical requirements for sovereignty (as expressed by the classic writers on the subject, such as Grotius) center on having territory, a population and a government. However, there is no effective legal apparatus operating in the international sphere. Insofar as "law" is understood to mean what it does within the context of the legal system of a given nation, it is misleading to speak of "international law." Might essentially makes whatever right there can be said to be in this arena. For example, the classic texts often base sovereignty on being recognized as sovereign by another sovereign nation. In practice, this means a new nation must be powerful enough to force another nation to recognize it (as the United States did with Great Britain in the Revolutionary War), or being sufficiently subservient to such a nation to make it advantageous for that nation to recognize it (as in the case of the South African spinoffs).

By the way, in regard to nearly-submerged islands (the site of many new-country projects), the traditional standard for defining "territory" is that some part of the island must be above water at "mean higher high water." "High water" means that the measurement must be made at high tide; the fact that the sea bed is exposed at low tide doesn't make it land (territory) — it's still just sea bed. The "higher" part means that the measurement must be made at the highest tide of the month, when the sun and moon are aligned. Finally, the "mean" part means that the land being covered by storm-driven higher-than-average tides doesn't keep it from being legally land. By the same token, however, the measurement can't be made during lower-than-average tides caused by storms blowing offshore either. In any case, the might-makes-right factor shouldn't be overlooked.

The key requirement for sovereignty is that the country must have some territory that it calls its own, and hold on to it against all comers. Traveling potentates may well have what is called "extraterritorial status," meaning that whatever premises they occupy are, for the duration of their occupation, the sovereign territory of their country. This is certainly convenient. However, the country through which the potentates are traveling must agree to this status, and such agreement is rarely forthcoming unless a potentate's government holds some territory of its own somewhere. One class of exceptions are the embassies of the Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) in the United States. The United States has never recognized the annexation of these countries by the Soviet Union during World War II. The ambassadors from those lands who were accredited to the government in Washington at the time of the annexation continue to be recognized as such, since no competent authority (competent in the eyes of the United States, that is) has relieved them of their position. Whatever premises they occupy are the (only) sovereign territory of these nations. But this status is based on the home governments having held their own territory prior to World War II. Thus the precedent they set is of little use to the new-country organizer, whose country has never held any territory of its own.

Thus, some home territory is required. That territory can be quite small. For example, the United Nations holds only a few

acres in New York City as its home territory. What is generally regarded as the world's smallest sovereign nation, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM), has only a single building in Rome (this is officially the embassy of SMOM, but in a history similar to that of the Baltic countries, it has become SMOM's only sovereign territory). By the way, it should be noted that many of these small countries, especially those completely surrounded by the territory of another country, have had to surrender control over their foreign and military affairs to a neighboring large country. This includes such small countries as SMOM and San Marino. These form another class of borderline entities; it is debatable whether one can consider such entities to be truly sovereign. However, as in the case of the Baltic embassies, these entities have previously had full responsibility for their own military and foreign affairs, and their present status is a relic of that earlier power. Therefore, the precedents they set are also of little use to a new country that has never before held sovereignty.

A new country project must then make a decision as to what territory it will claim. Territory can be divided into two classes: that which is claimed by and under the control of a single existing nation, and that which is not so claimed and controlled.

Intuitively, the latter is most appealing. Territory that is not claimed by and under the control of a particular nation would seem to offer an opportunity for a new country to move in. Such territory can be roughly divided into two subclasses: that which is claimed by two or more specific nations, and that which is regarded as international territory (the subject of treaties signed by many if not most nations).

Examples of territories claimed by two or more specific nations are the Falkland (or Malvinas) Islands off South America, disputed by Argentina and Great Britain, and the Shatt al Arab area at the head of the Persian Gulf, currently being fought over by Iran and Iraq. The drawbacks of trying to start a new country in such areas are obvious: instead of facing the armed might of a single nation, it would face the forces of two or more countries. Furthermore, since sovereignty over the territory is in dispute, the level of military buildup is high, and each of the present contenders for sovereignty is especially sensitive to anything that might

weaken its own claim to sovereignty.

The subclass of international territory covers much of the seabed (although individual countries are always expanding their claims to territorial waters, shrinking the international area of the deep oceans), outer space, and a part of Antarctica. Speaking of Antarctica, it is a popular misconception that the Antarctic treaty signed in the 1950's made all of Antarctica an international zone. All of the countries who had previously made claims on the continent merely agreed to hold them in abbeyance until the end of the century, making no further claims and not attempting to implement existing ones. But for the next century, they have reserved the right to resume the prosecution of their claims. They agreed to the treaty essentially because they realized that their claims would have little practical value until then, and that there was no sense wasting a lot of time and energy pressing claims until then, as long as it could be assured that nobody else would use the hiatus to steal a march on them.

These territories seem attractive as sites for a new country, but on closer analysis they can be seen to suffer from the same problem as places like the Falkland/Malvinas and the Shatt al Arab. If a new country stakes a claim and is allowed to get away with it, it shuts out the interests of not just one or two nations, but all nations. If such a precedent were allowed to stand, the entire seabed or continent of Antarctica or space itself could be nibbled away by various freelance claimants, leaving the established nations with nothing in those areas. Thus new countries moving into those areas are moving against the interests of the whole body of established nations.

It should be noted that there are various other parts of the world regarding which the legal documentation might be argued to be defective, and which might thus be classified as "unclaimed," in a narrow, juridical sense. However, these areas are plainly within the de facto power of one or more existing nations, and any activity directed at such areas would clearly be treated by such nations as if it were occurring on their sovereign territory. For example, the treaties delineating the Franco-Spanish border were inadvertently (or deliberately, for diplomatic purposes) written so as to admit of

the interpretation that certain tiny enclaves (many of no more than a few acres) are neither in France nor in Spain. But in fact France and Spain are in firm control of the border region, and any new-country activities there would be treated as if they were being conducted in French or Spanish territory. Similarly, certain rocks east of New Zealand may never have been formally claimed. But New Zealand does claim all the major islands in the area, and clearly would treat any activity on those rocks as if it were on an island they claim.

The prudent course, therefore, is to select a piece of territory now claimed and controlled by a single nation. If some *modus vivendi* can be worked out with that nation, the new country need not worry about any others directly intervening. What would probably be regarded as the most successful case of a new country being established in modern times (Sealand, discussed in detail in the Case Histories chapter) used this approach, settling on an abandoned antiaircraft tower in the Thames Estuary off England. Having gotten a favorable ruling from a British court, it has not suffered any other direct challenge from an existing nation (although it has continued to be subject to British harassment). Other nations with claims to press against it (specifically, Germany) have chosen to approach Britain rather than take action directly. But Britain has declined to act, citing the court ruling.

Once a piece of territory has been selected, there remains the problem of securing possession and control of it. Here we encounter one of the basic principles of interactions between sovereign entities: might makes right. To be regarded as sovereign, a nation must be both willing and able to advance and defend its interests by force of arms. In fact, some definitions of sovereignty would include this as an essential characteristic, classifying such entities as SMOM and San Marino (both of whose military and foreign affairs are controlled by Italy) as not being truly sovereign. Many visionaries have a Utopian concept of a benign world order, within which a peaceful nation that sought only to live in harmony with its neighbors could dispense with military concerns. Such a world seems unlikely ever to exist; it certainly does not exist now, nor is there any prospect of it in the forseeable future.

Those who dream of such a world order generally envision nations dealing with their neighbors through negotiations, perhaps resorting to things like Gandhian resistance or appeals to world opinion if made the object of force by an aggressive nation. The Peace Plans cited in the Access chapter constitute a reasonably comprehensive compendium of such non-military ways of resolving international disputes. Many of them may well be quite useful in specific situations. But taken as a whole, they are unimpressive as a substitute for the central, underlying role of the military. Wherever you find a sovereign nation, there also you find a military force backing up that nation's status. As they say, cannon are the final argument of kings. In the case of protectorates like SMOM and San Marino, that force is wielded by the "protecting" power (in this context, "protection" is to be understood in the sense that gangsters use it: "Sign up for our protection, or who knows what 'accidents' might happen..."). Costa Rica is widely known as a fully independent nation without armed forces; but it maintains a paramilitary national police force that serves the same function. The same reality holds throughout the world. An entity that is neither under the "protection" of a nation with armed forces — nor has armed forces of its own — would soon be carved up by its neighbors, and the rest of the world would not find it possible to be greatly alarmed. The existing nations cannot be bothered to be altruistic "cops of the world," protecting the weak, defending the innocent, etc., unless there is something in it for them (such as taking over control of the weak, innocent, etc., entity).

One approach to avoiding the need for a military establishment — that is widespread among new country organizers — is buying the territory in question from the nation that currently has it. This is a sound approach, and one I would recommend wherever the incumbent nation can be induced to enter into such a bargain. But this is basically a secondary matter, meaningless until the military situation has been provided for. If the new country lacks the willingness or ability to defend the purchased territory by force of arms, the selling country will have a strong incentive to repudiate the sale as soon as the purchaser's check clears. Or perhaps the seller would wait until after the next coup d'etat or election or revolution (or however governments are changed in the selling

country) to act. If it waited too long, neighboring countries might decide that the seller truly had no further interest in the territory, and move in themselves. In any case, without being backed up by force of arms, any bill of sale or title deed held by the new country would be a worthless scrap of paper.

Furthermore, without the spectre of having their land taken from them by force by the new country if they don't sell, there are reasons for existing countries to be reluctant to sell sovereignty over pieces of their territories. The closest thing to sale of sovereignty that is conducted routinely is the sale of corporation charters and ship registrations to all comers — with minimum strings attached — by tax-haven countries (Panama, Liberia, Lichtenstein, etc.). But any number of those can be sold without reducing the size of the country doing the selling. In addition, such sales produce revenue year after year, in the form of renewal fees. And, in case of emergency (e.g., embarassing activities by the buyer), the seller can decline to renew the charter or registration. But there is only so much land a nation has to which to sell sovereignty (even if it is willing to weather the emotional reaction among the population to selling off part of the sacred soil of the Motherland); and once it's sold, there is no further income to be had (if a country were to repudiate the sale of sovereignty — in order to re-sell the same piece of land, or extract more money from the original buyer — naturally no buyer (neither the original one nor anyone else) would be interested in any further dealings).

There is also the great-power factor. In past centuries, there were corners of the world that the great powers were not interested in and/or were unable to influence. One of the most recent instances of this was when Mexico occupied the French island of Clipperton off the Mexican coast during World War I, while the French were preoccupied in the trenches. But even then, as soon as the war ended, France retook the island.

Nowadays, the interests of the great powers extend worldwide and even into space. They have networks of grants-in-aid, favorable trade terms, military assistance programs, etc., to make it worth any small country's while to accomodate one or more of them. These great powers tend to want to see the status quo maintained. Especially, they want to see the number of countries

held down, because the fewer the players there are in the international game, the easier it is for the great powers to manage things to their own advantage. A country selling sovereignty would face being cut off from the aid, trade, etc., that the great powers can offer. Thus they are only interested in doing such things if there's a large, ongoing profit to be realized (as is the case in selling corporation charters, ship registrations and other tax-haven-type services). The small countries really aren't interested in taking the grief that would be involved in selling sovereignty just for a few, one-shot payments from buyers.

This brings us to the question of what sort of military force is required. If a new country project is planning to establish itself on territory now claimed by a small or weak nation, it might seem that there would only be a need for sufficient force to hold off that nation. But this reckons without the role of the great powers. Nations such as the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France are sufficiently powerful that there is effectively no point on Earth (including the seas), or even in the nearby regions of space, that is too remote for them to have an interest in what happens there. Other nations have more restricted areas of interest, typically taking in former colonies (for example, Italy, Portugal and West Germany). These nations are always seeking to extend and secure their spheres of influence, and to that end they maintain extensive networks of favored trading status, cash grants, military aid, technical assistance, etc. If an established smaller nation finds itself doing more poorly than it would like in a confrontation with a neighbor, there is always one or more of the great powers who would be only too happy to help — for a price (i.e., helping the great power expand and secure its influence). This help from the great powers may range from moral, political and diplomatic support, to money, materiel (weapons, vehicles, etc.) and direct intervention by the great power's forces.

If the existing nation on whose territory the new country is being founded (or any neighboring country, if the original country were too slow in acting) were to be frustrated in an attempt to take over the new country (or frustrated in any other confrontation with the new country), there would always be the possibility of their turning to one or more great powers for assistance. The new country must

be prepared to deal with this prospect: to head it off, neutralize it, defeat it, turn it away, or otherwise insure that great-power intervention won't do them in.

There are two basic approaches possible to resolving this problem: the new country could make its own deal with one or more outside powers, or it could rely on its own resources. The first approach is the conventional one, and it the one used by most existing nations. To examine its potential for new countries, we have to ask what it is that outside powers are looking for in such a deal. As pointed out above, they are basically looking for influence. They could always pick some people out of the phone book, and prop them up with the force of their bayonets. They wouldn't have to give such puppets anything at all in return. If an individual or group is to derive anything out of acting on behalf of an outside power, it must be able to offer the outside power more than such randomly-selected puppets; more influence for the buck, as it were. This means that what the great powers are looking for in a government with which they make a deal is the ability to (as they say in Chicago) "deliver the vote." The outside powers are looking for people who are in control, and can insure that any deal struck will be carried out with as little disturbance or hassle or loss of continuity as possible. This generally means that, all other things being equal, the outside powers prefer to deal with an established regime. If the established government in an area is not acceptable to a given outside power for any reason (e.g., that regime has already firmly aligned itself with a rival power), then they are looking for the next best thing. They want somebody who can, with the least help from them, take over control of the area from the incumbents.

Since a new country is, by definition, not the established government, they can't bargain for outside support on that basis. It's like getting a loan at a bank: in order to get it, you have to prove you don't need it; in order to get outside support as an established government, you virtually have to prove that you can make your own way without it. The new country, therefore, can only expect to deal with outside powers as an out-of-power movement within the existing country holding the territory desired. What ability to "deliver the vote" can you offer?

Essentially the only basis that fetches a significant price in the marketplace is being able to command the loyalty of the people who are currently in secure occupation of the territory in question. In practice, this kind of loyalty requires (at a minimum) that you share some kind of ethnic bond with those people. For example, if you are the traditional leader of a tribe that occupies the territory, you may be in a good position to deal.

Note that, while sharing an ethnic bond may be a necessary condition for great power support, it is not a sufficient one: just because you are a member of some tribe, it does not follow that you can command the respect of its people. You must also have some basis (hereditary or acquired in action) for commanding that respect. Furthermore, even having that respect doesn't guarantee the level of outside-power support required, if the overall situation isn't right. For example, leaders of dissident American Indian and black factions are generally warmly received in Moscow and Peking. Many are even offered the chance to make propaganda broadcasts back to the United States, and may be welcome to take up residence in the Soviet Union or China against the day when those countries might be able to install their own people in power there (just like the Afghan puppet Babrak Kamal was kept in Czechoslovakia until the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, whereupon he was set up in power in Kabul). But if American Indian or black leaders start asking when the shipments of Kalashnikov rifles will arrive in the ghetto or on the reservation, they get blank stares. The Soviet Union and China are not prepared to forment outright rebellion within the United States at this time, due to the overall realities of the situation.

One factor that may cause an outside power to lose interest in an otherwise-attractive proposition is the old political principle of base-broadening. Great powers, like political parties, are always trying to appeal to as many people as possible. The Soviet Union and China fear nothing from the United States as a competitor for the allegiance of radical leftists. However, they would like to extend their influence with less radical groups, such as the European left. To that end, they promote the idea of "EuroCommunism," of "Communism with a Human Face," of a vision of their supporters as really not being all that hostile to existing

institutions. To that end, China and the Soviet Union tend to dissociate themselves as much as possible from the more rabidly ideological splinter groups around the world. After all, they know they can count on such groups anyway, since those groups and the United States clearly have little basis for making any deal.

Similarly, the United States is always trying to appear to be not just a bunch of greedy businessmen, but also to share the concerns of the little fellow around the world. To that end, they seek to dissociate themselves from any individual or group that is too loud and vigorous in its advocacy of free enterprise. After all, the United States knows that it can count on such groups anyway, since they can hardly look to the Soviet Union or China. Many new-country projects have naively assumed that, if they clearly proclaimed their dedication to the principles of liberty and free enterprise, the United States would embrace them enthusiastically, in ignorance of this rather cynical base-broadening principle of international Realpolitik.

On the other hand, great powers frequently support nations and groups whose general ideological slant is considered contrary to that of the great power, as long as the small nation or group isn't so strident in its public denunciations of the great power's ideology as to embarass it elsewhere in the world, and as long as the great power has something to gain according to the principles discussed above. For example, the Soviet Union supported the military junta in Argentina in the Falklands/Malvinas war, because they wanted Argentine grain and to cause the United States as much embarassment as possible. The United States has supported the socialist government in the New Hebrides against the pro-free-enterprise rebels (as described in the Case Histories chapter), apparently desiring to avoid setting a destabilizing precedent in a part of the world where it has various island colonies and island-nation client states.

The bargaining value of being able to "deliver the vote" accounts for the ability of small countries like San Marino to retain important vestiges of sovereign power in the face of an overwhelming neighbor: as long-established nations in their own right, their acquiescence in the dominance of the large power

provides a degree of stability and continuity that the larger power would have trouble duplicating otherwise.

However, the vast majority of readers of this book will not have this kind of political support among an indigenous population. Therefore, it isn't worthwhile to spend a great deal of time on the tactics of making the most of such support. Instead, I refer those fortunate enough to be in that position to texts such as Che Guevara on guerrilla war, and Edward Luttwak on the coup d'etat, and wish them luck.

What opportunities do others have to get support? How can they "deliver the vote" well enough to interest a great power in striking a deal? Unfortunately, the opportunities are limited. The most successful people without political bases have been mercenaries like Bob Dennard and Mike Hoare. Their ability to "deliver the vote" derives from their skill in organizing and leading small groups of soldiers. This has made their services attractive to nations such as France and South Africa, especially in the island republics off the East Coast of Africa. However, such skills are rather common, and are applicable to any location. Thus, while individuals with political bases may enjoy a semi-monopoly in dealing with powers interested in the areas of their bases, such powers can shop among all the mercenaries in the world — a gun is a gun, wherever it is pointed. Thus the mercenaries command a much lower price in the market, a price that usually does not extend to a position of political influence in the territory involved. Recently, Dennard installed himself on the governing council of the Comoro Islands following a takeover there that he led, but he was soon squeezed out by his French employers in favor of someone with a local political base. This sort of career has little to do with traditional concepts of starting a new country, and is probably of limited interest to most readers of this work.

So if a new country can't expect to enlist the aid of outside powers until it is in a position where it no longer needs that aid, it must rely on its own resources. In the past, this has not been practical. Ever since agriculture and animal husbandry were invented about 10,000 years ago, making it possible to field armies as we know them (before then, people couldn't be spared from

hunting and gathering activities on a year-round basis), numbers have been decisive in battle. Any side that could achieve an advantage of about three to one or more over its enemies (in terms of fully committed troops; reluctant conscripts, careerists just putting in their time until retirement, etc., have varying value) could pretty well count on victory. The weaker side couldn't even expect to inflict serious harm on the victor. This ability to subdue small minorities at minimal cost forms the basis of the empires and nation-states of history.

New-country organizers with visions of sending forth miniature armies, navies and air forces to turn back the great powers by sheer bravado and man-for-man skill and dedication are engaging in wishful thinking. Analyses of historical examples that are often cited to support the notion that David can overcome Goliath in warfare are based on a failure to accurately assess the forces arrayed on each side. The classical such example is the defeat by the few thousand Greeks under Alexander the Great of the hundreds of thousands of Persians under Darius. But the vast majority of the Persians in the decisive battles were just spectators. Only a small minority actually attacked the Greeks. The rest didn't care if they were ruled by King Darius or King Alexander, and saw no reason to stick their necks out. In the American Revolution, official history books in the United States minimize the contributions of the French and Prussians. To believe them, the French sent Lafayette, the Prussians sent von Steuben, and a few French ships provided a scenic backdrop to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, while a handful of embattled farmers defeated the world's mightiest empire. Actually, the ground operations in the United States were almost a sideshow during the decisive phases of the war. And in the Vietnam war, contrary to the "lowly-peasants-humble-the-mighty-empire" scenario, the indigenous Viet Cong in the south ceased to be much of a factor early on, with the issue being decided by the relative willingness of the Viet Minh, Chinese and Soviets on one side, and the South Vietnamese and the Americans on the other, to continue pouring in blood and treasure.

Now, however, a new factor is entering the equation: cheap weapons of mass destruction. These include such things as atomic

and thermonuclear explosives, radioactive dust, germ warfare, and poison gases. Even with these weapons, a small unit cannot expect to win outright a war with a large one. However, it can threaten to inflict serious damage on the large unit in the process. In effect, such units can follow the strategy of the old slogan of the American Revolutionary flag, "Don't Tread On Me." Like the rattlesnake depicted on that flag, small units don't stand a chance of surviving a showdown with bigger ones. However, by promising to inflict grievous injury in the process of being crushed, they can give the larger units incentive to make detours around the smaller ones; to pursue their great-power interests somewhere else.

This is essentially the strategy followed by the small country of Grand Fenwick in the movie *The Mouse That Roared.* Not the strategy they originally set out to follow, of being defeated by the United States and receiving foreign aid (we discussed above why a new country would have trouble getting such aid), but the strategy they actually wound up following: getting a weapon of mass destruction and threatening to use it if their demands weren't met, even though its use would mean their own destruction. Of course, the movie was a comedy, and the sting was taken out of the situation by the last-minute revelation that the weapon was a dud. But with real weapons, there's nothing at all whimsical or humorous about such a strategy.

Now, some new-country organizers will recoil at the thought of inflicting large numbers of casualties. This is a personal decision. But the fact is that war, and the inflicting of such numbers of casualties, lies at the heart of statecraft, and he who has no stomach for it needs to look for another line of work. The only way that a nation can avoid having to inflict such casualties is to convince all and sundry that it is ready and willing to inflict them, and that it would not hesitate to do so if that would serve its diplomatic interests. In this matter, there is little room for deception such as that practiced by Grand Fenwick with its dud bomb: announcing that one is ready and willing to inflict such casualties, but secretly resolving never to carry out the threat. The leaders of established nations are, by definition, those who are most skilled at the high-stakes poker game of assessing the intentions of other leaders. They will take into account everything

that the organizers of a new country have said and done in their lives to form a judgment of their intentions. If there is the slightest doubt as to the resolve of the new country, the new country is in big trouble. Practically speaking, a new country threatening to use weapons of mass destruction must have them and in fact be willing to use them freely.

However, some people who would be willing to accept the idea of inflicting even massive casualties on enemy forces in conventional warfare nevertheless become queasy at the thought of using weapons of mass destruction. To them, killing enemy soldiers (even conscripts, who want only to be civilians again) is one thing, but killing civilians is another. In considering things like radiological and biological and chemical warfare, words like "inhuman" and "monstrous" and "barbarous" and "cowardly" and "crimes against humanity" and "atrocity" come to mind. In this regard, it must be kept in mind that things like the Geneva Conventions on warfare, and other expressions of conventional attitudes toward these weapons, have been largely shaped by the great powers, and thus reflect their interests. The great powers find it convenient to use things like napalm and machine guns, and are not threatened seriously by their use by small countries: to paraphrase the old Frenchman, God remains on the side of the big batallions in warfare using such weapons. But chemical and biological and radiological warfare do not significantly enhance the position of the great powers: anything that those weapons can accomplish, the great powers can accomplish with conventional means. The conventional means cost more, but the great powers can afford it. The small countries can't. And that's exactly the point: the great powers have laid down rules to insure their continued dominance.

Nuclear explosives represent an interesting borderline case. In the beginning, they were sufficiently expensive that the great powers could count on a monopoly. Thus there was little interest in supressing them. But as they have gotten cheaper and cheaper, the great powers have become more and more concerned about their proliferation, and thus a more and more stridently moralizing tone has entered discussion of them.

However, going back to our rattlesnake analogy, such policies are somewhat like the bears in the forest getting together and

denouncing the despicable vileness of poisonous venom, all the while sharpening their claws and strengthening their paws. Everybody uses those weapons that are available to them, and adopts those values that are compatible with them. Self-preservation is the first law of all life. No form of life that sacrifices its own interests in favor of those of other forms can long survive. If one chooses to subscribe to the great-power-sponsored values, then one must ally oneself with the great powers, and forget about organizing new, small countries. But if one chooses the new-country route, one must be prepared to live by values appropriate to small countries.

For those seeking a justification of such policies in libertarian moral terms (such as those championed by the novelist Ayn Rand), it can be argued that whoever (through the initiation of force) puts a victim in the position of having to choose between his own life and freedom, and the lives of others, is morally responsible for whatever the victim must do to protect his own life and freedom. More concretely, the situation is equivalent to the case in which criminals barracade themselves in with hostages. The police request that they come out and surrender themselves. Similarly, the new-country victim can request that the leaders of the aggressor existing country surrender themselves for punishment. When this request is refused (as in all liklihood it will be), action must be taken to deal with the situation. All other things being equal, as much care should be taken to minimize harm to the hostages as feasible. But if the criminals skillfully use the hostages as human shields, harm may not be able to be avoided. To value saving the hostages over capturing the criminals would be to issue a blank check to any criminal with sufficient skill in taking hostages. Similarly, refusal by a new country to attack the principal cities of a major aggressor nation would be to give them *carte blanche*, for there is no other way that a new country can significantly affect a large nation. (In the past, of course, small nations haven't had such weapons, and have thus been at the mercy of the large nations, their only hope being to play one off against another, a strategy not open to new countries for the reasons discussed above.)

The details of obtaining and deploying weapons of mass destruction are beyond the scope of this book. They are covered in

my book *Basement Nukes* and the United States government publication *Superviolence* (identified in the Access chapter). Such weapons should be planted in likely target areas for remote detonation, as well as stocked in the new country and its immediate vicinity and other locations throughout the world where they will be difficult for enemies to locate, but available in case of need. They should be under the control both of people in the new country, and of agents scattered throughout the world. Some weapons should be under positive control (detonated only by an explicit command to detonate), while others should be under dead-man control (set to be detonated unless appropriate countermanding orders are received). This deters enemies from attempting a pre-emptive strike to knock out the new country before retaliation orders can be given and weapons launched.

Despite inflation, the cost of nuclear explosives has been steadily going down with each country that has detonated them. The most recent such nation, India, is estimated to have spent about $200 million. The conventional wisdom is that the present cost would be about $100 million, using new technologies (ultracentrifuges, laser ionization, etc.). Chemical, biological and radiological weapons are even cheaper. Their cost should be below $10 million, perhaps even below $1 million for a minimal program. These sums are well within the reach of new-country projects.

Once the weapons were deployed, the country then holding the intended territory of the new country would be approached and made aware of the situation. Bargaining could then begin on a price for the sale of sovereignty over the territory involved. If the existing country involved is a great power, certain complications would arise. If they publicly announce that the new country has weapons of mass destruction planted in the great power's cities, panic could ensue. A "millions-for-defense-but-not-one-cent-for-tribute" mania could sweep the country, leading to a suicidal attack. However, if such an announcement is not made, any government entering into a deal for the transfer of sovereignty would be regarded as crazy by those unaware of the military situation, and would likely be discredited and driven from office.

Therefore, the wisest course would be to choose some territory controlled by a small nation instead. To minimize complications,

the small country should be firmly within the sphere of influence of a single great power. For example, one of the Eastern European satellite countries of the Soviet Union, or a Latin American country firmly in the United States' orbit. Weapons would be planted in both the small country and the great power. The great power could publicly denounce and deplore the decision of the small country, while privately being sure that nothing is done to actually back the new country into a corner. The great power would be responsible for insuring that no other outside powers (great or small, including the country formerly holding the territory) intervened in the situation. After a decent interval, the great power could, with public reluctance while citing the right of the smaller country to dispose of its territory, grant full recognition to the new country, insuring it general (if not universal) acceptance in the community of nations.

If the negotiations hit a snag, the new country wouldn't necessarily have to take an all-or-nothing stand: "Agree, or we hit one of your cities." As a first step, it could threaten merely to disclose its possession of mass destruction weapons. This might well produce panic in the cities of the major power. All other things being equal, both the new country and the great power would prefer to avoid such panic; but the major power would stand to be much more seriously inconvenienced by it than the new country.

If that failed, the next stage could be a demonstration of the weapons. A nuclear device could be set off at high altitude. A chemical or biological weapon could be detonated containing a harmless (but readily detected) bacterium or chemical (such agents were used by the United States in clandestine tests of dispersal methods in its own cities). At the same time, samples of the deadly agent could be delivered to appropriate officials and/or news media, to show the device could as easily have held that agent.

After that, the next step might be detonation of a live device in an area of low population, so that casualties would be light. Only if all of these steps failed would there be a need to directly attack population centers.

But this brand of ball may be a bit too hard for many. They may wish to pursue opportunities with lesser costs and risks, even

though leading to lesser rewards. These alternative paths may be sufficient to their goals; or they may serve as preliminaries to an attempt to found fully sovereign nations. We will review four other approaches, and then compare all five as to costs, risks and rewards.

Approach #2: Ship Under Flag of Convenience

Those whose primary goal is making money will likely find this approach the best. Although many countries are expanding their claimed territorial waters, there are likely to be wide areas of the oceans that will remain open to ships of all nations for some time. Treaties that are accepted virtually universally require all ships to fly the flag of an existing nation. Those that do not are defined as pirates, and are subject to treatment as such by any nation's warships. Most nations require ships flying their flag to employ their own nationals, and generally subject them to the onshore laws of that country. However, there are certain small nations that specialize in granting ships the permission to fly their flags with a minimum of restrictions. In return, these countries receive annual fees in the range of a few thousand dollars per ship or less. These flags are called "flags of convenience," and the owners of ships flying those flags are allowed to hire anyone they want, and generally do just about anything they want. Certain international treaties banning piracy, the drug traffic, the slave trade, etc., still apply, but the countries involved are small and can hardly police their worldwide fleets — and aren't really interested in doing so. Panama and Liberia are the best known of these flags of conveniences. Sierra Leone has not signed the international radio treaties that ban broadcasting from ships, and is used as a flag of convenience by the popular-music broadcasting ships off the coast of Europe that are described in the Case Histories chapter. Flags of convenience have also been used to promote gambling and the distribution of alcohol during Prohibition.

The best locations for such a ship would likely be off the coasts of the industrialized nations (the United States, Europe and Japan). Possible activities include free banking, the sale of unregulated securities, tax-free business sites, clinics offering therapies that are banned onshore (Laetrile, etc.), and any other activity that is heavily taxed or regulated onshore.

Detailed information on establishing a ship under a flag of convenience can be obtained from the source cited in the Access chapter. This is the approach that I personally used in my own Jolly Roger project, as described in the Case Histories chapter, and I am available for consultation on this subject (see the Access chapter).

Approach #3: Litigation

Another approach is simply to declare the independence of a new country, and let the existing country that claims the territory do its worst. In the Anglo-Saxon countries (for example, United States and Great Britain) this will likely take the form of various legal actions to collect taxes and otherwise enforce the existing country's will. These actions can generally be fought up and down the court system for years.

(It should go without saying that this approach should only be attempted when the existing nation is a Western-style democracy. In fact, it would probably be wise to confine it to nations with an Anglo-Saxon legal tradition — as witness the fate of the Isle of the Roses, described in the Case Histories chapter.)

If lawyers are hired to take care of the litigation, the bills can run to hundreds or even thousands of dollars per day. This is definitely a rich man's game, but can be very satisfying if one has the money. This is the approach used by Prince Roy of Sealand, who has used the profits he earned as Paddy Roy Bates, "pirate" radio station operator, and has resulted in what might be considered the most successful new-country venture of modern times.

If one is less well off, but has the time to spend, one can fight the legal battles oneself. Essentially this involves taking principled stands, playing to the media, and making impassioned speeches to sympathetic judges and juries. This is the approach that has been used by many tax resisters in the United States — who could, in a sense, be considered to be the promoters of "new countries" insofar as they question the legitimacy of the present government in the United States.

The group called the Posse Comitatus is the most notorious of these. However, its most infamous member (Gordon Kahl) broke

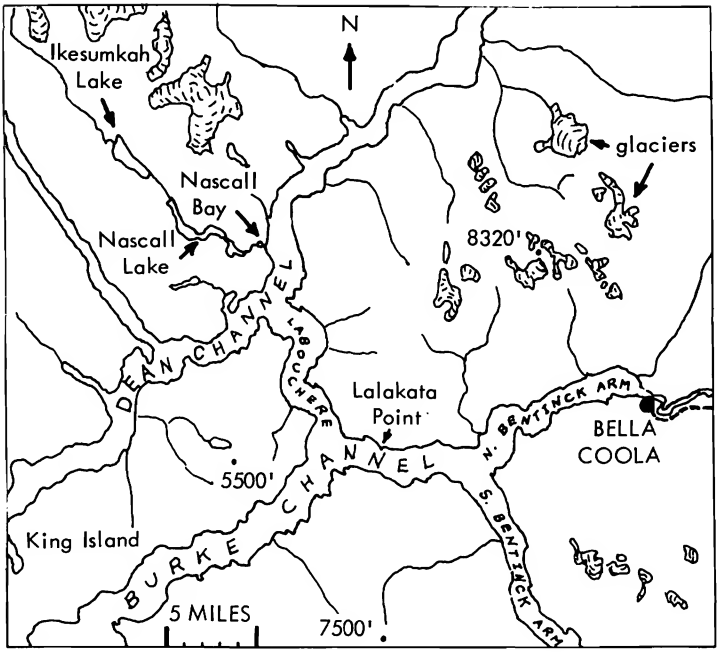
with this approach when (to use the dime-novel language that seems appropriate in this case) he kilt himself a couple of marshals in Dakota and lit out for the Badlands. At that point, he was more nearly following the "vonu" approach described below. However, his spectacular exploits violated a cardinal rule of that approach (keeping out of mind of the "bludg" (vonuspeak for "the authorities" — derived from "bludgeon")), and when they caught up with him, the remains had to be identified using dental records.

One useful technique, if and when the heat from the existing country gets too high, is to establish bank accounts and similarly leave other assets where the existing country can seize them. In this way, the tax and other authorities imposing fines in those countries are given less incentive to press the new country further on the legal front, but the new country does not have to recognize or legitimize the existing country's actions in any way.

Another useful technique is to register with the United States Department of Justice as an agent of a foreign country, under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended. This can get you an official piece of paper from the Federal government recognizing you as an agent of your country. Their inclination is to issue the acknowledgement of registration, and not to worry about the pedigree of the country represented.

Approach #4: Vonu (Out of Sight and Mind)

"Vonu" is a term that was coined by members of the Free Isles project described in the Case Histories chapter, after they gave up on the project. It describes the concept of living "out of sight and mind" of the government claiming the territory one lives in. This is a style of living like that of the legendary "Mountain Men" of the last century. The areas favored by the originators of the "vonu" concept were in the Siskiyou Mountains of Eastern Oregon, and the interior of British Columbia. Other promising areas for the practice of "vonu" are uninhabited islands in the Pacific and other oceans. A guide to these islands is identified in the Access chapter. Still another possibility explored by the original "vonuans" is nomadism: living as gypsies in campers and such, spending the night wherever one happens to be at the end of the day. Even in the last part of the 20th Century in the United States, it is surprisingly



Area around Bella Coola, British Columbia, Canada, favored among followers of the "vonu" approach.

easy to drop out of sight of the authorities in one way or another. The continuing inability of the authorities (called "bludg" — from "bludgeon" — in vonuspeak) to track down the Posse Comitatus fugitive in the Dakota Badlands illustrates this point.

Living a "vonuist" life, you can pay essentially no taxes, educate your own children as you see fit, forget about draft registration, and otherwise live as you choose. The physical necessities of life may require a bit more effort, but those who value freedom may find this a small price to pay for liberty. A book detailing the theory and practice of "vonu" is listed in the Access chapter.

Approach #5: Model Country

For some, all of the above approaches may be too drastic to be undertaken — at least, right away. But there is an easy way to dip a toe in the new-country waters, and help make up your mind about what further steps you might want to take. Many find it a rewarding hobby to run a model railroad, or operate model airplanes. These model enterprises have all the trappings of the real thing, in miniature. Similarly, it's possible to run a "model country." You need only declare your home to be an independent nation, and proceed from there.

Many people fear that taking this sort of action would bring down the immediate wrath of the established government in their area. In most Western democracies, however, this is not likely to happen. One of the fundamental principles of survival for an established government — or any bureaucratic organization — is to do nothing unless it is necessary. For example, the British government didn't take even its limited action against Sealand until Prince Roy fired on a boatload of buoy repairmen (as described in the Case Histories chapter). Once that immediate fracas subsided, no further action was taken beyond routine harassment. Many new countries have sent notices of their existence, and requests for recognition, to the United States Government. There is an Office of the Geographer of the United States at the State Department in Washington where such notices are filed. No action is taken on them, one way or the other.

Naturally, what can be accomplished using this approach is limited. No action can be taken that seriously inconveniences the established government. For example, you can't take potshots at officials the established country sends around, or refuse to pay its taxes — unless, of course, you are prepared to get into the litigation approach described above. What you can do is view the taxes paid to the established government as your new country's defense budget. "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute" makes a ringing slogan for a great power, but smaller nations routinely must make accomodations with larger neighboring nations. The payments by such countries may take the form of a direct government-to-government transfer, or they may take the

form of bribes to officials in key positions. Thinking of taxes as bribes to corrupt officials can have a salutary effect in demystifying the whole process of levying and collecting taxes, revealing it for what it really is: the "protection" racket writ large.

Other kinds of activities are also inadvisable by a model country, such as dealing in drugs or running gambling casinos (although some Indian tribes have gotten away with that on their reservations — but then, those tribes hardly qualify as "new" countries, being older than the United States; their position, and how they got it, is similar to that of San Marino and SMOM: from a previously fully-sovereign status). Also impractical are things that require the active cooperation of the established government, such as getting them to accept mail that carries only your own postage stamps.

But within these limits there is much that can be done. You can design and fly your own flag. Lawyers are notoriously soft touches for fancy-looking certificates to hang on their walls, so for a price you can admit them to practice before the bar in your country. Doctors can be licensed to practice medicine. You can issue your own passports, and stamp your own visas and entry and exit notices in other people's passports of whatever nationality. There's nothing in United States law against having an American passport stamped with such notices: to make it illegal, the United States State Department would have to explicitly add your country's name to the list of proscribed countries (Cuba, Vietnam, etc.), and they aren't about to give you that kind of recognition. Of course, you should hang on to your own passport in the established country from which you are seceding, in case you travel to countries that might not recognize your new country's passport. Nevertheless, you might want to try presenting your new-country passport when crossing a border — border officials aren't always especially alert, and they just might stamp it and pass you on. This makes a nice souvenir, and you can always present your established-country passport if they don't accept the new-country one.

You can design and print your own stamps, or have them designed and printed. You can mint your own coins and print your own money (or have them minted and printed), as long as you

don't mass-market them to an extent that threatens the legal-tender status of the established country's currency. You can confer titles of nobility or honorific orders on your friends — or sell them to all comers. Speaking of sales to the public, stamps that are not accepted by the established countries have a limited market. However, coins — especially those of precious metals — and jewelled medals are much easier to market. The marketability of passports, patents of nobility, diplomatic credentials, etc., is limited only by your own skills as a mail-order merchant. All this can be at least as much fun as running a model railroad.

One of the fringe benefits of the model-country hobby can be to clarify your thinking about the world, and about the role that you and the established country from which you are seceding play in it. The tendency is to think of the government of the country in which you live as "your" government. If its officials do something of which you disapprove, you feel responsible for it. If they do something of which you approve, you take pride in it. If you have some ideas on how things should be done, you write to "your" representatives, or vote accordingly at "your" next elections. But a moment's reflection will dispel the illusion that you have any significant control over the actions of "your" government. Unless you are in a key position of influence, you have no more say in the affairs of "your" government, practically speaking, than you do in the affairs of any other government. You are responsible for the future of yourself and those you choose to take responsibility for (your family, your employees, etc.). No one else can relieve you of that responsibility, nor can anyone hold you responsible for the actions or welfare of anyone else. Naturally, the government in the established country from which you are seceding would like you to think of yourself as "belonging" to them, but this is an intellectual trap you are well out of. You should evaluate the actions of that established country as you would any other — assessing their impact on your own new country and its people, and taking action accordingly. A general principle in the world is that there are no two people so close together that their interests are always identical, nor are there any two people so far apart that they don't have some common interest. Thinking of yourself as an independent nation among the nations of the world is a good way

to develop realistic patterns of thought. For example, if someone says that "we" should get out of El Salvador, or that "we" should not dismantle "our" nuclear weapons, point out that your (new) country isn't in El Salvador nor does it have any nuclear weapons, and so you will not be held responsible for what some other country (like the United States) may be doing in regard to those matters.

Comparison of Approaches

Each of the five approaches described above has certain advantages and certain disadvantages. The one best suited to your needs will depend on your own situation. To help make this decision, the accompanying table summarizes the features of each approach. Plus signs indicate features in terms of which a given approach is particularly attractive as compared to others. Minus signs indicate features in terms of which a given approach is particularly unattractive. Zeroes indicate features in terms of which a given approach is intermediate in attractiveness.

Each approach imposes **costs** in certain forms:

- ***Capital:*** How much capital must be invested to pursue this approach?
- ***Time:*** Can this approach be pursued in one's spare time while devoting one's main energies to some other business, or is it a full-time undertaking in and of itself?
- ***Commitment:*** Can this approach be dropped if it is producing unsatisfactory results, or must the pursuers "pledge ... (their) lives, (their) Fortunes and (their) sacred Honor" on a no-turning-back basis?
- ***Risk:*** What is the chance of being killed or imprisoned if things don't work out?
- ***Mobility:*** Would pursuers of this approach be able to come and go at will, or would they have to stay in a particular place?

COMPARISON OF APPROACHES

	Traditional Sovereignty	Ship in Int'l Waters	"Vonu" at Fixed Site	Mobile "Vonu"	High Cost Litigation	Low Cost Litigation	Model Country
Costs:							
Capital	-	-	+	0	-	+	+
Time	-	0	0	0	0	-	+
Commitment	-	0	0	0	-	-	+
Risk	-	0	0	0	0	-	+
Mobility	0	0	-	0	0	0	+
Benefits:							
Integrity	+	0	+	0	0	+	-
Ego	+	0	-	-	0	0	0
Money	0	+	-	-	-	-	0
Chance of Success	-	0	0	0	0	0	+

Offsetting these costs are the **benefits** to be reaped:

- ***Integrity:*** Does this approach allow one to be one's own person, or does it require compromise with existing institutions?
- ***Ego:*** Does this approach allow one to boost one's ego, providing broad public recognition and providing a "bully pulpit" from which to press one's views, or does it lead to a life of relative obscurity?
- ***Money:*** Is this approach profitable, providing an opportunity to make a great deal of money, or is it likely to lead to a life of poverty?

Finally, the chance of success must be considered. An approach with low costs, and great rewards if successful, is still unattractive if the chance of achieving success is very small. On the other hand, it may be worth incurring fairly high costs in pursuit of an approach that produces only modest rewards, if it is virtually certain that accepting those costs will secure those rewards.

Now we will compare the five approaches in terms of these factors.

Capital

The operation of a model country requires no more capital than one wishes to invest. You can start with just a flag and a press release mailed to the local media, and go on from there. At the other end of the scale, establishing a traditionally sovereign nation can require billions of dollars; in any case, well over a million dollars. If the "high" road to the litigation approach is to be taken — hiring lawyers to do all the legal work, and so on — the bills can mount up fast, totalling hundreds or even thousands of dollars a day. With the "low" approach to litigation, expenses can be quite small. By refusing to post bail on minor harassing charges brought against you, and by operating out of the local Crossbar Hotel, you can even get the authorities you are fighting to provide you with room and board. Operating a ship in international waters might be undertaken for as little as a few tens of thousnads of dollars, with less than ten thousand dollars a year in operating expenses, using a small, older craft. Extensive business operations would require larger vessels, of course. Practicing "vonu" (living out of sight and

mind of the rest of the world) in a remote wilderness home is extremely inexpensive, since you would largely be living off the land. The nomadic form of "vonu" requires securing a vehicle, and providing for its fuel, maintenance, etc.

Time

As in the case of money, operating a model country requires no more time than you wish to put in. A traditionally sovereign nation, of course, tends to be rather all-consuming, as does the litigation approach by the "low" road (doing all the dirty work yourself: entering pleas, drawing up briefs, etc.). Using the "high" road (lawyers, etc.) relieves one of much of this detail. Operating a ship in international waters requires a certain amount of attention to logistic detail, and keeping one's papers in order, but leaves one largely free to operate the business aspects of the venture: lining up customers, etc. Living "vonu" requires that a fair amount of time be spent on the logistics of daily life.

Commitment

Operating a model country requires little commitment: you can stop any time you tire of it. But establishing a traditionally sovereign nation — especially if it involves acquiring weapons of mass destruction — is a game that is played for keeps. Once one mounts that kind of tiger, one is committed to riding all the way. The litigation route quickly accumulates a high level of entanglement that cannot easily be shucked off. In abandoning a "vonu" lifestyle, one must be sure that any scofflaw activities involved cannot be traced to you after you return to a conventional lifestyle. Operation of a ship in international waters could leave questions of tax liabilities to be resolved after returning to life ashore.

Risk

Operating a model country involves no risk to life or liberty. A mobile "vonu" style is fairly safe, although being caught in violation of various vehicle and other laws may result in brief imprisonment. In practicing "vonu" in a fixed wilderness location, there is the problem of forest rangers, prospectors, marijuana growers (and hijackers), and others who might think that they have some interest in the land that you are occupying, and may

back up their claims with guns. The "Game of Kings" (the business of running a traditional sovereign country) is a game played for keeps — especially when one relies on weapons of mass destruction. Assassination, capture or death in an enemy attack is always a possibility. The operator of a ship in international waters needs to worry about attacks by rival operators, or by onshore gangsters if gambling and such activities are conducted. The record of the "pirate" radio ships (covered in the Case Histories chapter) illustrates these perils. In litigation, there is always the possibility of facing prison sentences, although probably short ones.

Mobility

Operating a model country doesn't restrict your movements. However, success in living "vonu" in a wilderness base requires minimizing movement into and out of settled areas. In pursuing litigation, the courts may place various restrictions on one's movements. Reaping the full tax benefits of operating a ship in international waters may require not being physically present on land for more that limited periods. Obstacles to passing from ship to shore may also be thrown up as harassment. Pursuing a mobile "vonu" lifestyle may present complications in moving across borders where documents must be presented.

Integrity

Operating a model country offers the least rewards in terms of integrity, since the operator must continue to observe tax and similar laws of the nation from which the model country secedes. Litigation via the "low" option involves taking principled stands against the authorities and standing firm, thus allowing a high degree of integrity. "Vonu" practiced in a wilderness location provides a similar ambiance, along the lines of the *Wilderness Family*. And of course traditional sovereignty allows one to walk among the community of nations unbeholden to anyone. Mobile "vonu," operating a ship in international waters and "high"-option litigation (relying on lawyers, etc.) involve certain accomodations with existing procedures — getting appropriate licenses, meeting filing dates, etc.

Ego

A traditionally sovereign country offers far and away the greatest ego satisfaction. Worldwide publicity is virtually assured. The "vonu" lifestyles require maintaining a low profile, however. The other approaches allow considerable scope for attracting media attention, with skillful promotion.

Money

Traditional sovereignty isn't really the way to go to make a lot of money, though a comfortable living should be possible if the capital for such a venture is available at all. The overhead expenses (including providing for defense) eat up too much capital to make such an undertaking spectacularly profitable. Some of the Founding Fathers of the United States died in debt. A ship in international waters is probably the best approach for making money, through such things as running gambling casinos and other high-profit enterprises. The "vonu" and litigation routes are definitely not financially rewarding; the best that can be hoped for is to limit the financial drain.

Chance of Success

Operating a model country offers the best chance of success, since there is essentially no risk involved. On the other hand, going for traditional sovereignty is clearly the most dicey path. The other approaches depend for their success, to some extent or another, on the actions of the authorities and/or just plain luck, and the results can't always be predicted. Litigation depends on the whims of judges and juries, while a "vonu" lifestyle can be disrupted by an unfortunate traffic cop or forest ranger.

Before getting into the case histories, we will look at possibilities for the internal organization of a new country, along with the closely-related matter of attracting people to live in it.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND RECRUITING SETTLERS

Many people thinking of starting their own country have already made up their minds how they want it to be organized, and what kind of people they want to attract. Such a vision has generally been what started them thinking about a new country in the first place. Those people can skip this chapter altogether. However, those who are still open to suggestion may find the advice presented here to be helpful.

The design that most people have in mind for a new country tends to be essentially the form of government with which they grew up, or some form that was presented to them in a favorable light at school (and since the school curriculum had to be officially approved, such forms probably weren't too different from the locally prevailing form), with certain improvements designed to avoid the features of the present society that led to their dissatisfaction in the first place.

In contemporary practice, this means some kind of pluralistic government administered by fiduciaries. That is, a government shaped by the interplay of a number of forces in society, with day-to-day affairs managed by public servants who are charged with distilling all these forces into a program to best advance the "general good" or "common weal" or "public interest."

The United States is an obvious example of a pluralistic society — various economic, political, ethnic and religious groups jockey for advantage, with the resulting society tolerable to most, though ideal to few. Even in the Soviet Union, regarded by many as the least pluralistic of societies, the military, the secret police, the Communist Party cadre, the bureaucracy, etc., vie for influence, even while the factions within each of these power structures jostle each other for position. The resulting forces can topple even the

mightiest leaders (as Kruschev was forced into retirement following repeated failures in agriculture).

The United States is also an obvious example in which the rulers are regarded as the fiduciaries or servants of the public, not the masters, and are subject to being deposed if they fail to discharge their stewardship of the republic satisfactorily. But even the most absolute monarchs of old based their rule on the concept of Divine Right: that they were chosen by God to be the custodian of their people, and to look after them as a shepherd after his sheep. But this in turn encouraged people to constantly evaluate the monarch's performance, and throw their support behind a Pretender if they found it lacking. Thus even the most absolute despotisms tend to be riddled with treason and intrigue.

The pluralistic model has serious drawbacks for the new-country organizer. Presumably, such an organizer has a specific idea of what sort of society is to be created, and what its goals are to be. But because of the variety of power centers in a pluralistic society, it is very difficult to predict the direction in which the total society will move as time goes by, much less control that direction. Founders of new countries who try to design pluralistic societies to achieve specific goals are likely to find themselves in the position of King Lear. Having divided his power among his three daughters, Shakespeare's fictional monarch looked forward to a peaceful old age. But each of the daughters, and their husbands, had different plans, and immediately set about jockeying for position. As a result, the old king saw his realm, as he knew it, destroyed.

Even setting up a pluralistic society, for better or worse, is not all that easy. Many new-country organizers have drawn up elaborate constitutions setting up various institutions, some quite ingenious. However, in actual pluralistic societies, institutions gain their respect only over a period of years. Most of the newly-independent nations in the poor parts of the world have been given such pluralistic constitutions. But the institutions so created have lacked the respect needed to survive, and power has soon devolved into the hands of a single strong leader or small clique. The same process has been visible in some of the new country ventures

described in the Case Histories chapter. A single individual has clearly remained the pivotal feature in the venture, often in spite of protesting — perhaps quite sincerely — that his only ambition was to be a quiet businessman in the new country.

Another temptation is to declare that all settlers will participate in making decisions about how the new country is to be run. This approach may recruit a large number of people, but tends to attract lots of chiefs and few Indians. The people spend all their time and energy in debating every little point of policy, rather than in establishing the businesses and other institutions that are to be the backbone of the new country. Such groups sometimes compare themselves to the citizens of ancient Athens. But it should be kept in mind that only a minority of the people of Athens were actually citizens. While they debated the great issues, their slaves and other non-citizens took care of the day-to-day business of making the community work. In turn, the citizens' common interest in maintaining their privileged position vis-a-vis the others acted as an incentive to reduce the factionalism into which such participatory decision-making institutions are prone to degenerate.

In more complex societies, this tendency is reduced by placing day-to-day control in the hands of a relatively small number of professional officials, elected or otherwise. But these fiduciaries are in the position of having the authority to make decisions, but not the responsibility for them — it's the people on whose behalf they are supposed to make the decisions that will reap the benefits of wise decisions, or suffer the consequences of poor ones. The officials only benefit or suffer to the extent that they are also residents of the country. This benefit or loss is generally small compared to their interest in retaining their positions of authority. Thus they have the incentive to do whatever benefits them the most in the short run (voting themselves high salaries, fancy perks, etc.), at the expense of the long-term prosperity of the community. Any time a given individual or group moves to question their tenure, they find their tax assessments going up, their favorite government programs cut back, and so on. On the other hand, those individuals and groups that rally to the support of the incumbents are rewarded with patronage jobs and other favors. Attempts to control these abuses (elections to throw rascals out,

civil service examinations replacing patronage in determining job holders, prosecutors to enfore laws against corrupt practices, etc.) have proven only palliatives of limited value.

A classic example of this placing the short-term advantage of incumbent fiduciary officials over the long-term viability of the community is the practice of New York City governments in the late 1960's and early 1970's of borrowing heavily to run expensive programs to woo voters. The officials involved weren't worried about how the debt was to be paid back. By the time it came due, they knew they would be retired in Florida on the large pensions they had instituted for themselves, or would have moved on to higher offices. They had the authority to borrow the money, but not the responsibility to pay back the loans.

Even in an apparently-monolithic country, like the Soviet Union under Stalin, such problems arise. The Red Army was one of the institutions on whose behalf Stalin was expected to administer the country (that is, he was to some extent beholden to them, and had to worry at all times about keeping them in line, just as an elected politician has to worry about keeping his constituency from getting restless). To forestall a military coup that he saw coming in the 1930's, Stalin purged most of his officers. This weakened the Red Army, with dire consequences when the Germans attacked. But Stalin couldn't afford to worry about that unless he was prepared to yield his power (an unrealistic expectation to hold about any incumbent).

An alternative form to this organization is what Spencer MacAllum has called the "proprietary community" (see his book *The Art of Community* in the Access chapter). The central feature of a proprietary community is that all land within it is owned by a single proprietor. This can be an individual, or a small group of individuals (such as a family or a group of business associates). The proprietor in turn enters into bilateral contracts with each other resident, defining the rights and obligations of each party to the other. In general, such contracts call for a certain parcel of land to be leased from the proprietor to the resident, at a certain rental, and call on the proprietor to provide certain services that are more economically provided on a community-wide basis (police protection, utilities, military defense, etc.).

A major problem that arises is how the residents can be reasonably sure the proprietor is going to live up to his commitments. For small disputes, the contract would likely provide for a form of arbitration. But a proprietor cannot give an arbitrator the power to issue binding decisions with too great an impact on the proprietor. That would effectively divide control of the community between the proprietor and the arbitrator, undermining the advantages of the proprietary community form of organization.

In larger cases, or if the proprietor did not honor an arbitration award, the residents could choose to accept the status quo, or to move out of the community. A proprietor who breaches his contracts with residents would soon have trouble attracting new tenants, and his vacancy rate would rise until he went bankrupt and had to sell out.

Well and good, but what of cases in which the wrongs of the proprietor are so severe that simply moving out is not adequate redress — or where the proprietor even tries to stop people from leaving at gunpoint? This is analagous to how one protects oneself against a neighbor — or even a family member — pulling a gun and shooting one dead. There is no way a policeman could be installed in every home to guard against this. One can only arrange matters so that those who do such things as murder suffer severe consequences. If people are prepared to ignore those consequences and act anyway, little can be done once they make their decision. Similarly, if a proprietor decides one day that he doesn't care about the long-term viability of his community, he can run amok.

However, whether a proprietor (or a gun-wielding neighbor) runs amok isn't completely a matter of chance. One could choose one's proprietor, as one chooses one's neighbors, on the basis of how likely they were to do such dire things. If one moves into a slum neighborhood, where dope addicts shoot up in every doorway, and gunshots ring out every Saturday night, then one accepts a high risk of being a victim. But if one moves into a quiet neighborhood, with a record of having a low crime rate, one can have fair confidence of not being shot at random.

So how could one evaluate proprietors before moving in? The key would be the proprietor's track record. Stripped of the high-falutin rhetoric, running a country is essentially a form of real estate management. Anyone planning to start and run a country should expect to serve an apprenticeship in the land-development industry, learning what mix of residents and facilities are needed to make a community viable, what essential services must be provided, and so on. The more years a proprietor has invested in building up a reputation as a sane, reliable landlord, the more he would have to lose by going berserk and abusing his tenants (thus destroying his reputation), and the more he would have to gain by keeping that reputation intact. For example, the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow (EPCOT) at Walt Disney World was intended to be a complete, self-contained community under Disney management. Due to a housing depression, the building of residential neighborhoods was postponed indefinitely. However, had the full community been built, one could have had reasonable expectations that the Disney management wasn't going to run amok (even if the community had been located outside the jurisdiction of the United States or any other country that might have acted as a check on it), because the Disney people have an enormous reputation built up. Some might find life in such a Disneyville a bit boring, but few would doubt its relative safety.

But then, if the proprietary community form of organization is so much more rational, efficient, etc., than conventional political forms, why aren't all countries run that way? Why haven't communities that are run that way competed others out of existence? The key is the logistics of warfare in the agricultural era. As discussed above, God is on the side of the big batallions, and the key to victory is motivating as many people as possible to lay down their lives for the community at subsitence wages. In this, the conventional state (through its emotional appeals, deceptive rhetoric and coercive suppression of opposition) has the advantage over the cool, rational proprietary community. But, as also discussed above, with the coming of cheap weapons of mass destruction, numerical superiority is no longer a guarantee of quick, painless victory, nor is numerical inferiority a guarantee of quick, crushing defeat. Thus proprietary communities are poised to come into their own.

Not being able to offer settlers much of a voice in running the new country, you have to offer them a sound deal in material terms. The new country has to have a solid economic base. Many new countries envision acting as tax havens, offering ship registrations and corporate charters and the like. While explicit pro-free-enterprise rhetoric from the community developers might appear to give the new country an edge in attracting tax-haven business over such countries as Panama or Liechtenstein (which have generally socialistic internal policies), this would be more than outweighed by those other countries' half century or more of demonstrated stability and reliability in regard to tax-haven policies. Without a track record in the tax-haven business (or even in the business of sheer survival as a nation), a new country would find it hard to break in. At best, the tax-haven business is a highly competitive one worldwide, and a new country couldn't expect great profits.

If located near population centers, some of the businesses discussed as suitable for ships in international waters might be tried — gambling casinos, unorthodox medical clinics, etc. Manufacturing operations could take advantage of refugees around the world eager for a chance to start a new life at any wages they could get.

In general, a substantial portion of the needed capital must be committed to the new country in advance. Many new countries have foundered because they expected people to rush to invest in them as soon as they declared their independence. As in getting great-power support, to get that kind of financial support you essentially have to prove that you can make a go of things without it, if need be.

In this regard, it is essential to have a financial/economic plan. Where is the capital for the venture going to come from? How will it be spent? And above all, how will it be recouped and current expenses met?

The image projected by a new country is also important. A light touch, reflecting a sense of humor, can be useful in attracting customers for model-country projects (passports, stamps, etc.) and in getting public sympathy in existing countries. But to attract

serious investors and settlers, charm is not enough. The new country must be perceived as a sober enterprise that is serious about surviving. But even insofar as a lighter image is projected, the organizers still need to be as serious behind the scenes as the venture calls for.

A few final thoughts. A key principle for new-country organizers is: if you want the job done right, do it yourself. Machiavelli said, "Put not your faith in Princes." This applies even to those living in existing nations. Alliances with one or another of the existing countries, with varying degrees of intimacy, may be necessary for survival. But never forget that officials of even the most benign such government will put their interests above yours in a pinch. It may decide that you must die (as a conscript or as a civilian casualty) so that others may live; or that your home "must be destroyed in order to save it." Against such prospects, you must always make your own assessment of the situation around you, and be prepared to shift your allegiances if the interests of you and yours are best served thereby. You must think of yourself as a sovereign entity, and follow the first (if not only) rule of statecraft: self-preservation.

Another implication of the do-it-yourself principle is that the formation of a fully sovereign new country is no refuge for the person who simply wants to be free of harassment by existing governments, but who doesn't want to dirty (or bloody) his hands with affairs of state. There is not, and there never will be, any form of government that will benignly look after your interests in exchange for some small payment. Any official of any government can be expected to seek as much advantage as possible from his position. If you are not prepared to be ruled by others, you must be prepared to govern yourself. And this doesn't mean such games as voting, or writing a letter to elected officials, or sending a few dollars to their campaign funds. It means making the tough decisions, and making the commitment to carry them out.

You may find the above suggestions of some value in designing your own new country. Or these suggestions may have given you some ideas of your own in this area. But the most important point to be made here is that organization, financing and settling of the new country need to be carefully thought out in advance, in light

of the anticipated conditions. One cannot afford to let wishful thinking run rampant, or fall into the rut of imitating existing countries whose situations are quite different from that facing the new country.

THE FUTURE OF NEW COUNTRIES

So far we have looked mainly at the problems involved in getting a new country started and running smoothly. But what then? What can you look forward to for your children, and your children's children? Can you expect them to carry on the work you have started? Or will the world change so much that your efforts become meaningless?

Human history changed dramatically when agriculture was invented. The minority of the people that could be freed from immediate food production found that the most profitable investment for this new-found leisure was the conquest of other people, and control of their agricultural surplus. This has been the pattern for the past 10,000 years: conquer and tax, tax and conquer some more. However, in the industrial age war has become so costly, even for the victors, that the opportunities are limited for conquest that can produce enough pelf to pay off the costs involved and finance the next wave of conquest. As weapons of mass destruction get cheaper, the costs of war to the "victor" will spiral even higher.

But one shouldn't be too complacent that this will mean a world in which nation lives with nation in peace and harmony. The resulting peace may well be the peace of the grave. In the coming centuries, it will likely be possible to build doomsday machines that can destroy all life on Earth. For example, a small rocket motor on an asteroid a few miles in diameter could change the planetoid's orbit just enough to hit the Earth, and effectively homogenize the outer few miles of the Earth's crust. From an astronomical point of view, this might be a minor event. But for the sentient life on Earth, it could be essentially equivalent to atomizing the entire planet.

Once such means of destruction become generally available, it can only be a matter of time until some individual or group is faced with the collapse of their position — an Adolf Hitler, an Idi Amin, a terrorist group like the IRA or PLO, or even a business firm. People in such positions commonly contemplate suicide. Compared to this, threatening to play the role of Samson in the Temple if the world does not accede to their demands seems eminently reasonable, if the means are available. The first few people trying this can be appeased. But eventually the demands from such blackmailers will become too numerous, too large, and too contradictory to be completely satisfied. Many desperate people committing suicide have tried to take as many people with them as possible. As the weapons available to them increase in power, it can only be a matter of time before they are able to fulfill their ambitions of bringing the whole world down with them.

If humankind is to survive, I see no alternative to expanding outward into space. And this doesn't mean just settling on other planets and moons. They will be just as vulnerable to doomsday weapons as the Earth, and there aren't enough of them to insure that some will survive an Armageddon. Only a large number of communities well dispersed in the volume of space seems likely to have a chance to escape the fury of a frustrated blackmailer or a suicidal grudge holder. Such people will be able to destroy a few communities, just as today terrorists can fairly easily destroy an airplane with hundreds of people aboard. Such an act is a disaster for those on the plane, and is hardly cause for celebration by their friends and relatives and other supporters of the things they stood for. But the human race survives. The continuity of the cultures of the world is not broken.

The establishment of such communities in space would constitute a Golden Age of new-country formation in the next few centuries. Those who gain experience in the new-country field now are the most likely to be ready to seize the new opportunities when they arise — or to see their children and their children's children in a position to do so.

There are several objections that are commonly raised to this scenario of the decline of the nation-state. One is that (while

nuclear weapons have only recently come down in price to where they might be just barely within the reach of entities other than nation-states) chemical and biological weapons have been well-known at about current costs since the end of World War II. Yet no terrorist use of them has been seen beyond a number of hoax threats. Does this not mean that there are some forces at work militating against their use?

The only force needed to account for their non-use as yet is simple inertia. It may be a while before the right combination of people, motivation, opportunity, etc., come together for a particular technology to be applied. For example, the Chinese had gunpowder without developing guns, and a century or so passed after Marco Polo brought it to Europe before cannon were seriously introduced into warfare. But once the power of cannon was demonstrated in action, every army acquired and used them. In a less warlike vein, as soon as James Watt had perfected his steam engine in the 1770's, all the technology was in place for the railroad, and indeed there was much speculation about the application of steam power to land transportation right from the start. But it was a half-century before George Stephenson demonstrated his Rocket, the original locomotive. Again, it was a matter of the right people, with the right motivation and the right resources, coming together in the right circumstances. But again, once a practical railroad was demonstrated, railroads spread rapidly through all of Britain, and then all the world.

A more recent example (and one directly related to terrorist activity) is the hijacking of aircraft. This possibility existed since before World War II, yet it wasn't until the 1960's that it became a serious problem. Once again, the people, motivation and opportunity just didn't happen to come together until then. But once it did, it seemed as if everyone was doing it. Similarly, it is reasonable to suppose that the right people, motive, resources and opportunity for mass-destruction terrorism haven't yet come together; but how long can this be counted on not to happen? Once such incidents start happening, there will likely be a lot of them, leading to the end of the system of nation-states as we know it.

Another argument against the decline of the nation-state is based on the old Chinese saying, "Kill one, frighten ten thousand."

Even if it costs more to conquer an area armed with mass destruction weapons than can possibly be recouped from that area, the destruction of such an area would serve as an object lesson to other areas, so that they could be subdued without using such weapons against the conquerer.

This kill-one-frighten-ten-thousand strategy is precisely what has been done for the past ten thousand years, throughout the agricultural era. A specific place that resists an army generally costs more to take than that specific area will return. Conquerers are only able to recoup their costs and show enough profit to conquer further if they can seize a large area by actively fighting a few pockets of resistance. While the costs of overcoming such pockets might be high in relation to the value of the pockets themselves, they are still small in relation to the worth of the whole empire. But even a few, small pockets of resistance can afford enough in the way of mass destruction weapons to exact a heavy toll from an attacker.

Even in the largest, most secure empires there are, from time to time, outbreaks of resistance to the authorities that must be put down forcibly. For example, there are race riots in the United States every few years, confrontations between state and local governments and the Federal government (ranging from the Civil War to sending of troops into the South in the 1950's and 1960's), and political (and other) groups like the Charles Manson gang or the kidnappers of Patty Hearst or the Jonestown people. The participants in these activities are frequently suicidal, and in many cases there are enough people involved to be able to afford mass destruction weapons. The availability of such weapons will surely not reduce the frequency of such incidents (the established authorities already have the physical means to utterly destroy the rebels even without mass destruction weapons, the level of retaliation on the rebels being determined by political considerations; thus the authorities are in no stronger a position for having such weapons). Sooner or later, some rebel group will use them, and once it does, the idea will spread rapidly. No existing empire can long stand against such an unending peppering of mass destruction weapons. The only practical means of survival will be maintaining a low profile, with nobody trying to govern any

people who don't want to be governed. There have never been any such groups above a quite small size.

Another objection raised to the scenario above is that such a dispersal into small units would simply be a return to feudalism in the Medieval style, with local warlords oppressing hapless serfs, and sending them into battle with the serfs of neighboring chieftains. But the linchpin of the feudal system was that individual lords were not free agents, but were in fact part of a continent-wide system. If the serfs on one estate rose up, the lords of neighboring estates could, and did, combine to supress the rebellion, at minimal risk to themselves. If one lord decided to profit by upsetting the applecart (for example, encouraging the most desireable serfs from neighboring estates to flee their masters for better conditions), such a lord was branded a "traitor" or "heretic," and was crushed by his neighbors. The history of the Middle Ages is filled with these sorts of movements, but until the introduction of cannon and muskets, they didn't have any chance of success. The overall order could be enforced at modest cost to the enforcers.

But with cheap weapons (first guns, then weapons of mass destruction), this enforcement has become increasingly difficult. In the future, even a relatively small group of dissident "serfs" (residents of communities) or "lords" (owners of communities) could seriously hurt even powerful combinations of other forces. Thus "lords" would have to compete with one another for the services of "serfs." Any attempt to impose an overall order (in economic terms, any attempt to cartelize the market in communities) would give rise to occasional opportunities for communities at the margin to get more desireable residents by offering them better terms, or for residents (individually or in groups) to form new communities. Without the means to suppress these activities at minimal cost (which means existed in the Middle Ages, but wouldn't in the future), a cartel cannot hold together.

If all of the above has left you undaunted in your determination to start up your own country, I wish you good luck. Perhaps the Case Histories chapter in the next edition of this book will be able to include a description of your exploits.

CASE HISTORIES

In this chapter, we will go over the case histories of a number of new-country projects. Except as noted, most have been promoted since 1960. However, selected earlier projects are included, as are plans for future projects. The projects are listed alphabetically, with cross-referencing. The addresses and telephone numbers given are the best ones available at this writing. However, many of them are old, and many are incomplete. They are shown here anyway to give the greatest possible assistance to those seeking further information. The Access chapter gives further sources of such information.

ABACO — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

AFRICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY — See **AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY**

AFRIKA, REPUBLIC OF NEW

A number of efforts have been made to carve a Black Nation out of various parts of the southern United States. The Black Muslims have generally carried this the furthest, setting up communal farms financed by money raised among blacks in Northern cities. Organizing efforts among locally-resident blacks seem to have been minimal (or, at least, to have met with little success). These are classic cases of a new-country effort simply ignoring the existing political reality (i.e., the fact that the United States has a firm grip on the area, and there has been no chance that the new-country activities contemplated could possibly change that reality). Some of the farms continue as moderately successful business enterprises.

New Afrika is the name of such a new-country venture recently reported deprecatingly in *The Spotlight*, a publication of the right-

wing Liberty Lobby. Its territory is said to comprise Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, under provisional president Imari Abubakari Obadele. It was last reported to be planning elections in which only blacks would vote.

ALICE SHOAL

Wolf Hilbertz, a professor of architecture at the University of Houston, was reported as having plans for his Marine Resources Company to build up an island on Alice Shoal, near St. Croix in the Virgin Islands and several hundred miles south of Cuba, independent of any existing nation. His method is to pass electric current through underwater mesh, causing minerals dissolved into sea water to precipitate. He claims to have secured permission from the United States Coast Guard to use uninhabited Navassa Island (described below) as a supply base. Such permission seems unlikely, unless he has concealed his purpose from them (a concealment that would soon break down if operations ever started).

AMBERGRIS, BIG — See BIG AMBERGRIS

AMELIA ISLAND

Amelia Island is located off the coast of Florida near Jacksonville. In the early 1800's, it was a general base for smugglers defying the United States' embargo on trade with Europe. Smuggling has remained a major Florida industry from then, through the rum runners of the Prohibition era discussed below, to today's drug traffic.

In 1817, a South American adventurer named Luis Aury declared it an independent nation, and set about urging Florida to rebel against Spain. This is typical of incidents in the past that occurred when and where the great powers weren't in a position to assert themselves. In this case, Spain was prostrate after the Napoleonic Wars. Nowadays, great powers are able to project their power worldwide on a continuous basis, and such opportunities are not available.

Aury's goal of getting Florida to break away from Spain also illustrates a common motivation for new-country projects: setting

an example for an established territory, with the objective of influencing events in that territory. This was the motivation of the protagonists in Ayn Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged*, in which a new order was to be built up in a ruined world by those who had ridden out the collapse in an offshore enclave. In the real world, the exigencies of starting and running a new small country, and those of engaging in the politics of an existing large country, are incompatible. Success in getting a new country going requires turning one's back on the existing countries, as witness early American history. Countries whose founders were unwilling to do this tend to become havens for expatriates more interested in penning polemics and directing intrigues than in the day-to-day work of making a small country run. New-country organizers should make up their minds early on whether their primary goals lie within the new country, or in some existing country.

In the case of Aury, the United States used his actions as a pretext to secure its claim to Florida, and sent a naval expedition to clear him out, in what history books call the Amelia Island Incident. This illustrates the perils of choosing territory that is disputed between great powers: each is eager to assert itself to secure its claim against the other, with the hapless new country caught in the middle.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY

This is a contemporary movement, ostensibly a continuation of the movement that led to the founding of Liberia in Africa by freed slaves from the United States in the last century. The listed chairman and officers are blacks with Arabic names (apparently related to the Black Muslims); however, the only mention of it I have ever seen is in a right-wing, white-oriented publication (*The Spotlight*, May 23, 1983). The listed address is Box 8340, New Fairfield CT 06810.

AMISH — See PITCAIRN ISLAND

ANACHRONISM, SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE — See CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, SOCIETY FOR

ANITUGA, STATE OF

This was an example of a "model country" project. Like many nations, Greece granted exemption from the military draft and from some taxes to foreigners. An enterprising outfit set itself up selling complete sets of papers (passports, etc.) issued by the "State of Anituga," for Greeks to use to "prove" that they were foreigners. It is not clear to what extent the Greek authorities were actually taken in by these papers (with the Greek purchaser fully understanding the nature of the papers they were getting), or to what extent the purchasers were gulled into believing that they were actually acquiring citizenship in a generally-recognized country in exchange for their money. Such model countries shade off into the general industry of supplying fake ID and other false papers. Depending on the circumstances and the observer's point of view, such activities can be viewed as scurrilous fraud, or as a noble act of resistance against oppressive regimes.

ANTARCTIC HOMESTEADING

A 60-page single-spaced typescript prospectus for this project was forwarded by the editor of *Free Country Newsletter* discussed below, who would probably be the best contact for following up. The underlying philosophy is libertarian, with dedications to Ayn Rand, Murray Rothbard, Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich Hayek and Robert Heinlein. The orientation is basically New Left utopian, with dedications to Gandhi and authors Robert Hersig (for *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*), Ken Kesey (of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* fame) and Ira Levin (*This Perfect Day*).

The basic concept is for people to go to Antarctica and settle. A scenario is laid out to start unfolding in 1981, beginning at a Southern California conference, with growth from 1,000 people to 4,000,000 by 1985, but there is no indication that anything was ever done. The financial base was to be concerts by John Lennon (no indication that he was ever contacted), films in the Jacques Cousteau genre of Antarctic sunrise and sunset, and international conferences on religion and war and liberty. Gandhi's birthday was to be the big holiday. Individual settlements were to be called "Liberty World Homesteading Associations." Defense was to be

by Gandhian non-violent resistance, and by appeals to world opinion.

This is a typical example of new-country projects that are mainly used as vehicles for the organizers' daydreams (a practice by no means limited to the political left, as others of these case histories show), with little regard for the harsher realities of the world — such as the fact that the great powers are unlikely to permit claims to Antarctic territory to become established facts (just recently, the British forcibly removed an Argentine weather station in the Antarctic).

Perhaps the most realistic element of the scheme is the intention to populate the country with refugees from other parts of the world. This represents a pool of potential settlers for any new country. However, the background of most refugees dictates that any country taking them in have an economy offering unskilled-labor jobs. Such jobs tend to be service jobs to a more-affluent population (maids, bus boys, etc.) which would not exist in the proposed settlements, or assembly-line jobs in industries such as garments or electronic assembly. Establishments providing this latter kind of employment tend to be looked down on as "sweatshops" by those with the sort of utopian orientation revealed in this prospectus, which speaks of employment in construction (for local use, hence not a source of net income for the community), fishing and mining — capital intensive ventures requiring substantial skilled labor (especially so in the harsh Antarctic environment).

ANTARCTICA — See **ARYANA**

ANTARCTICA — See **MEVU**

ANTARCTICA, KINGDOM OF WEST

This group was reported in 1973 to be claiming a wedge of the Antarctic continent from 90 degrees to 150 degrees west longitude. Cyrus C. Taylor was reported as the king, with Robert Taylor as the provisional Prime Minister and James S. Shaffran as the provisional Foreign Minister. A legation to the United States was listed at 11701 Swartz Drive, Fairfax VA 22030.

ANGUILLA — See ATLANTIS, OPERATION

APHRODITE

This outfit lay claim to the Cortez Bank off the California and Mexican coast, the same place targeted by the Taluga project described below. In 1965, it was reported to be a monarchy under King James I, represented by Ambassador-at-Large George Gastine, 4169 West 1st St., Los Angeles CA 90004.

ARAGON, SOVEREIGN ORDER OF NEW

This country was to have been established on the southeastern end of the island of Barbuda, in the existing country of Antigua and Barbuda, according to reports published in 1982. This 62-square-mile island was also the site of an independence effort in 1981, described below. Its principal promoter was reported to be the fugitive financier Robert Vesco, in his ongoing search for a safe haven from extradition to the United States to stand trial on securities-fraud charges. It was to have been a principality, modeled on the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, with other well-to-do settlers being granted knighthood. The existing island nation of Dominica reported similar feelers from Vesco about some kind of concession there. All of these schemes apparently came to naught, with Vesco reported to have left the area via Nicaragua.

These efforts illustrate the difficulty of inducing even small, impoverished nations to negotiate even with financiers commanding tens or hundreds of millions of dollars. Over the long term, the potential financial gain is just too small compared to the economies of the nations as a whole, and the consequences of incurring the displeasure of the great powers active in the area (loss of aid, trade restrictions, etc.) are just too great. The negotiations with Vesco seem to have dragged on for quite a while; apparently, the nations involved were seeking some way to separate Vesco from his money without having to actually yield sovereignty. But nothing less would do for Vesco, and he was too smart to be sucked into a deal without ironclad guarantees that sovereignty would be granted and respected thereafter. For the reasons discussed in the previous chapters, the nations were neither willing

(nor, for that matter, able) to give such guarantees, so the deal never came off.

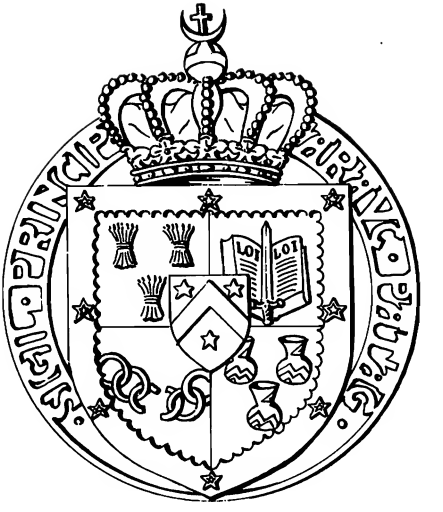
Vesco seems to have the kind of money that could have been used to acquire weapons of mass destruction. However, such preparations need to be done quietly, under cover of anonymity, before any public attention is attracted. Once Vesco became internationally notorious and was put on the run, there was no way that he could start to develop any such weapons without immediate detection.

ARAUCANIA, KINGDOM OF PATAGONIA AND

This venture dates back to 1860. A French lawyer, Orelie-Antoine de Tounens, claimed two areas in Chile occupied by Indian tribes. He had coins minted, and awarded jewelled honorific orders. He died in 1878, and was succeeded by his son. There seems to be some activity to this day, with apparently a lot of money involved. This would appear to be a model country conducted on the grand scale by a wealthy family, and indicates the longevity that such things can attain. One's model country can become a family heirloom. The current monarch of this country is Philipe d'Araucanie, who recognizes the heir of Montezuma as ruler of Mexico, and similar pretenders.

Coins from the Kingdom of Araucania and Patagonia (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

SA MAJESTÉ ORÉLIE-ANTOINE Ier



A picture of the founder of Araucania and Patagonia with the coat of arms (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

Prince Philippe D'Araucanie, the current monarch of Araucania and Patagonia (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

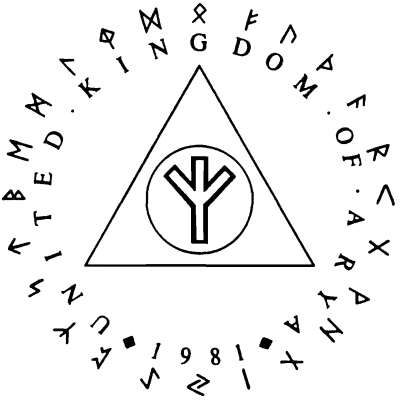
ARNOR, KINGDOM OF GONDOR AND — See **GONDOR AND ARNOR, KINGDOM OF**

ARYA — See **ARYANA**

ARYAN-PACIFIC, REPUBLIC OF — See **ARYANA**

ARYANA

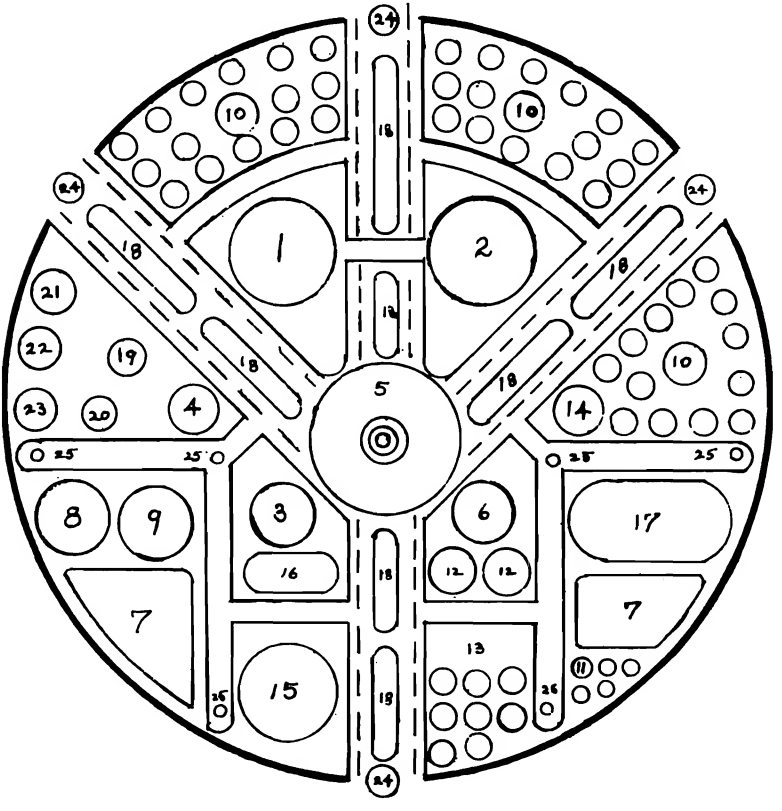
This is a model-country project with neo-Nazi overtones. People "have to be of pure Aryan blood" and fill out a questionnaire to become citizens. It claims to have started at the beginning of 1981. It offers citizenship for $12, warrior status for $25, baronetcies for $60, and dukedoms for $100. National identification cards, "required of all citizens," are an additional $6. No word on what volume of sales was being achieved at those prices. Passports are also available. Its founder calls himself "adventurer Arch Edwards," with the titles of Grand Prince and Prime Minister-Regent for a "Kingless, democratic government." Its address is East-West Services, Suite 405, 1717 North Highland Ave., Los Angeles CA 90028. It also offers stamps and coins, but on inquiry



The official seal of Arya.

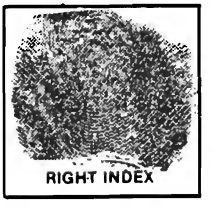
they were reported not to be ready yet, and the money sent for them was refunded. Such a refund is unusual among these kinds of ventures, most of which would just keep the money even if they never got around to putting out the stamps and coins; so perhaps they are indeed settling in for a long-term operation.

Its initial territory was "a previously uninhabited Pacific island (whose) remote tropical location is a closely-guarded secret." There is no clear indication that its uninhabited status has been changed. In March, 1983, claim was laid to 500,000 square miles in



A design proposed for the "City-State of Aryana."

UNITED KINGDOM OF ARYA



James Tyler

SIGNATURE

COLONEL
RANK

DALLAS, TEX. USA
P.O.E

BROWN GREEN
HAIR EYES

JAMES TYLER
NAME

100·047·004
REGISTRATION NO.

5·8·44 167 6'0"
D.O.B. W.T. H.T.

3·22·81
DATE OF ISSUE

ACTIVE SERVICE

CARD EXPIRES ON: 3·22·'84

FOR RENEWAL OR IF LOST OR STOLEN

CONTACT: **EAST—WEST SERVICES**

1717 North Highland Ave., Suite 405

Los Angeles, CA 90028

Approved by: Jack Edwards

SECRET

National Identification Card required to be carried by all citizens of Aryana.

Marie Byrd Land in Antarctica. Artist's conceptions have been published of the City State of Aryana and a motor-sail yacht *Noble Birth.* The economic system is called "Fair Market Economics," a "non-exploitative, tax-free system." Potential residents are urged to bone up on Nordic myths and history. The addresses of various right-wing foundations and publications are recommended as sources of such information. An expedition was said to be planned to aid anti-Communist Nicaraguan rebels. Designs for stamps, coins, battle patches, etc., are solicited, which should "reflect our Aryan greatness." A plug is put in for exotic Oriental nutrition, deprecating the American Medical Association and supermarket food. They are seeking admission to the United Nations. They claim to have established embassies and consulates in 26 nations worldwide.

Further information is offered in the founder's book, *Designs and Notes for a New Arya Order* (no price given) and in the quarterly *Aryan Newsletter* ($7 a year). The name "Republic of Aryan — Pacific" has also been associated with the venture, perhaps being abandoned because a republic has no noble titles to sell.

ARYAN NATION

These people ran the following advertisement: "ARYAN BROTHERHOOD WELCOME: LAST WHITE STRONGHOLD in North America. Sell your goods, buy an M1A Rifle and bring the family! Richard Butler, Aryan Nation, Route 3, Box 167, Hayden Lake, ID 83835. (208) 772-2408." This seems to be another neo-Nazi outfit, but one oriented to a "vonu"-style wilderness stronghold rather than the primarily mail-order model-country operation of Aryana. This sort of operation is the logical extension of the growing number of survivalist communities into the new-country arena.

ARBITRATION LEAGUE, INTERNATIONAL — See **INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION LEAGUE**

ASSOCIATION — See name of association

ATLAND

This is a classic model-country project, similar to Outer Baldonia described below, promoted by some Washington, DC, lawyers and other professionals (apparently with a straight face). The name is a contraction of "Atlantic Land." They started it after a fishing trip to the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, Canada. Its territory is a plateau that is 35 feet underwater. An address is listed of 1801 "K" St., Washington DC 20006 (in the heart of the posh lobbyist office district), phone (202)833-1160. There is also an Atland Embassy, Room 612, 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington VA. The key person is identified as Peter Nelson, 4501 Claremont Pl., Garret Park MD 20877.

The official seal of Atland, from a letterhead (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

ATLANTIS

The principal distinction of this republic is that it appears to have been the first new country in the modern era to use the name "Atlantis." It happened in 1917 in the Virgin Islands, at the time of their sale by Denmark to the United States. This seems to have been yet another attempt to move into an area whose status was in flux as between two existing countries. Like most such efforts, it came to naught as one country (the United States) consolidated its position.

ATLANTIS, ISLE OF GOLD

In 1965, the U.S. Attorney's office in southern Florida filed suit against this operation and another one on the same site called the Grand Capri Republic (see below). The Silver Isle project was also

to be on the same site, Triumph Reef, a reef just outside United States territorial waters, off the Florida coast. Louis M. Ray and Acme General Contractors were named in the suit, as well as the Atlantis Development Corporation. The plan called for a $250 million gambling-oriented tourist resort. The legal action dragged on for four years before the Federal District Court judge issued a shutdown order, citing fears of "gambling casinos and even alien missle bases."

This serves as an example of the high-cost approach to litigation: with enough money for lawyers, things can be made to drag on and on. This can be useful to new-country organizers, but is also a pitfall. There are plenty of lawyers who are ready to say that the merits of one's case look very good (even though they know full well it hasn't a chance of success), and that they advise fighting it all the way to the Supreme Court — or, they should add, to the last penny of the promoters' money, which usually comes first. If you can afford to buy time this way, that's fine; but don't be misled about your chances of winning in the end. In this case, there was no report of an appeal. It's hard to get reliable advice in cases like this — lawyers don't make any money by advising that cases be dropped. A good rule of thumb is to assume that the decision will go against the new country in the end.

The near-hysteria of the judge's language also serves to illustrate the almost paranoid reaction of existing countries to new-country projects anywhere near their territory, reinforcing the liklihood that, if pursued long enough, any final decisions will go against the new country.

The motivation in all three of these projects may have been to swindle investors into putting up money. The legal battles would be carried on long enough to keep the projects alive as long as the new investment money coming in was enough to cover them. Then they would be allowed to collapse. In effect, such a scheme would be going the classic Florida tidelands frauds of the past one better, selling land that was completely out at sea.

Of the three projects, only Silver Isle (said to be run by Charles Silver) actually seems to have done any physical work. Two retaining walls, fifty to a hundred feet in diameter each, were filled with sand by a dredge. Apparently, the elements soon reduced them to the state of nature.

ATLANTIS — KAJ — LEMURIA

In the 1930's, a Principality or Empire of this name was proclaimed. Lemuria is the Pacific Ocean counterpart of the mythical sunken continent of Atlantis. No details are known.

Government of Atlantis & Lemuria

The official seal of the Government of Atlantis kaj Lemuria (courtesy International Micropatrological Society)

ATLANTIS, NEW

Early in 1965, Leicester Hemingway, the youger brother of noted author Ernest, appeared in the United States to promote the Republic of New Atlantis, of which he announced himself to be an honorary citizen and President. The territory of the nation comprised an 8 by 30 foot barge anchored off the west coast of the Island of Jamaica. Mr. Hemingway was in search of recognition by the United States. One of the activities of New Atlantis was the issuance of postage stamps, a popular fund raiser for small countries, old and new alike. He had sent some stamps to then-President of the United States Lyndon Johnson, and had received a thank-you note addressed to the return address on Hemingway's letter, which was "Leicester Hemingway, Acting President, Republic of New Atlantis." He put much store by this "recognition" by bureaucratic reflex.

NEW ATLANTIS
6 SIX CENTES 6
20 CENTES LOCAL POST
NEW ATLANTIS
ST. THOMAS
ST. JOHN
ST. CROIX
honouring HUBERT H. HUMPHREY who stands tall in the eyes of the entire free world
50 CENTES * POSTAGE
NEW ATLANTIS * 1964
1965
NEW ATLANTIS
Local Post
60 centes
SIR WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL
1874-1965
WORLD STATESMAN OF XX CENTURY
LOCAL POST * 40 CENTES
Honouring the U.S. 4th Infantry Division whose laymen, living and dead helped liberate Northern Europe 20 years ago - with combat correspondent Ernest Hemingway an layman too

A few of the stamps issued by New Atlantis (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

It was also reported that he had obtained "de facto recognition by the prestigious International Court of the United Nations," (presumably referring to the International Court of Justice), though details were not given. Presumably, he filed some claims there, and the filings were acknowledged. At that report, the size of the island was up to 30 by 100 feet, and was placed six and a half miles southwest of Jamaica. A flag and national anthem were mentioned. At another time, the size was reported as 6 by 12 feet. Some of these variations in size may be due to reportorial idiosyncrasies, but he does seem to have had engineering problems holding the platform together against the ravages of storms and scavenging local fishermen.

Much of the money seems to have come from his biography of his famous brother. Speaking of finances, it should be pointed out

that he was only an honorary citizen of New Atlantis, having retained his United States citizenship and passport. This honorary status was necessary, because the United States does not recognize dual citizenship, and to have become a full citizen of New Atlantis would have resulted in forfeiture of his United States citizenship. Thus all of his income remained subject to United States taxation and other regulation (such as a law forbidding United States citizens from owning gambling ships on the high seas).

However, Hemingway's wife, Lady Pamela Bird, was a British subject. The United Kingdom allows dual citizenship, and does not tax the overseas income of its subjects. Therefore, she was able to become a full citizen of New Atlantis. Furthermore, insofar as any of Hemingway's income could be put in her name, it would be tax free. This can be a useful device for a new-country promoter wishing to retain United States citizenship. In most of the world, domestic servants can be hired for around $3 to $4 a day. A marriage can be performed prior to the employment, and income put in the spouse's name. If one is already married, there are many countries that recognize plural marriages where the ceremonies can be performed.

Such marriages of convenience offer other opportunities as well. Some travel agents in West Germany promote one-week charter trips to the Far East for matrimonially-inclined men. It seems that some German men are finding the local women insufficiently hard-working and docile for their tastes. Therefore, the agency recruits peasant girls from the Asian countryside, gives them an intensive briefing on what is expected of them, and introduces them to tour members. If both parties are satisfied at the end of the week, a marriage is performed, and man and wife take the return flight to Germany.

Even if such a marriage is to be used merely as a tax dodge, it is advisable that it be consummated, to defeat efforts by the tax authorities to have it declared invalid as merely a sham.

Of course, once such a wife entered the United States, she would be a resident and subject to the same taxes as any citizen. Furthermore, it would be difficult to get more than one such wife past the immigration authorities. Naturally, these problems

wouldn't apply to an operation outside existing national boundaries. This opens up an opportunity for the new-country promoter, whether in a fully sovereign nation, or merely on a ship in international waters near a population center. There is a science fiction story in which Afghanistan comes to rule all of Asia by luring away the top Soviet and Chinese weapon scientists with promises of harems. A bit far-fetched, perhaps; but offering inexpensive domestic servants, concubines and the tax dodge could be useful tools for recruiting settlers.

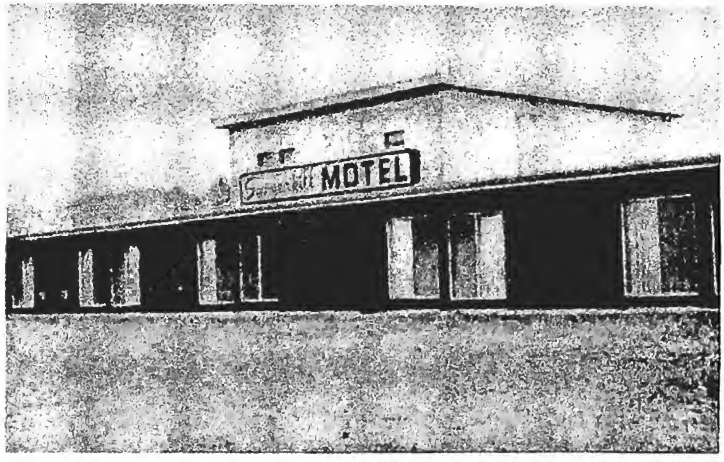
Meanwhile, by 1973, Hemingway was reported to have moved on from New Atlantis to promoting a 100 yard by 100 yard platform near the Bahamas (at 78 degrees 44 minutes west longitude, 25 degrees 38 minutes north latitude) called Christmas Island (having been christened on that day; no connection with the Christmas Island in the Pacific). The new country was called Tierra del Mar. The mailing address was given as Leicester Hemingway, 11 E. San Marino Dr. (an appropriate address for a microscopic country), Miami Beach FL 33139.

ATLANTIS, OPERATION

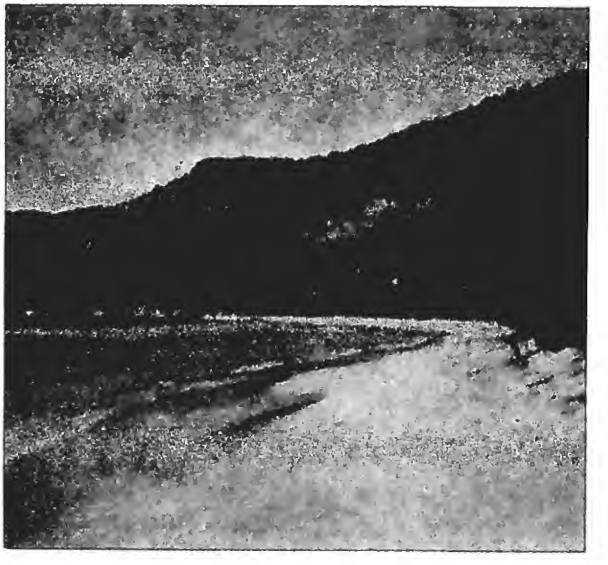
In the late 1960's, Werner K. Stiefel founded Operation Atlantis. Mr. Stiefel was strongly influenced by the writings of Ayn Rand, and sought to develop a new nation in the Carribean (to be called Atlantis) based on her capitalist principles. His initial step in this direction was the purchase of a motel north of New York City (at RD 5, Box 22A, Saugerties, NY 12477), where he assembled a group of people by offering free lodging in exchange for part-time work on the Atlantis project. A usually-late newsletter, *The Atlantis News*, was published by Stiefel, using the pseudonym Warren L. Stevens. Initially, the plan called for the group to move on board a ship in international waters as an intermediate step to the new country. The size of the investment required for this step resulted in a scale-down to a vessel suitable for shuttling people and supplies to the new country site. A ferrocement design (conrete heavily reinforced with steel bars and mesh) was selected for the ship, and the group at the motel began construction.

The principle accomplishment of Operation Atlantis, compared with most new-country ventures, was that a sizeable number of

people were actually assembled, and actually did a considerable amount of work toward advancing the project. The problem, however, was at the top. Mr. Stiefel was approaching the enterprise as a Sunday afternoon diversion. During the rest of the week, he was concerned with his business, Stiefel Laboratories, a family pharmaceuticals firm he built from a single plant in New York to plants in six jurisdictions around the world. When he visited the motel on Sunday afternoons, he liked to talk in broad, long-term visions. The people at the motel, not having independent means like Mr. Stiefel, were more interested in specific economic details. Attempts to press Mr. Stiefel to prepare at least a single-sheet financial plan — stating how much money was to be raised from what sources, where it was to be spent, and how it was to be recouped with a profit — were dismissed by him as "premature." This same response met efforts to establish the rights of participants to promote their own profit-making schemes once the new country had been founded. He also refused to commit any of his firm's money to the project (not even to the extent of opening a Stiefel Laboratories plant there), citing his responsibility



Motel base of Operation Atlantis in Saugerties, New York (from* Atlantis News*).



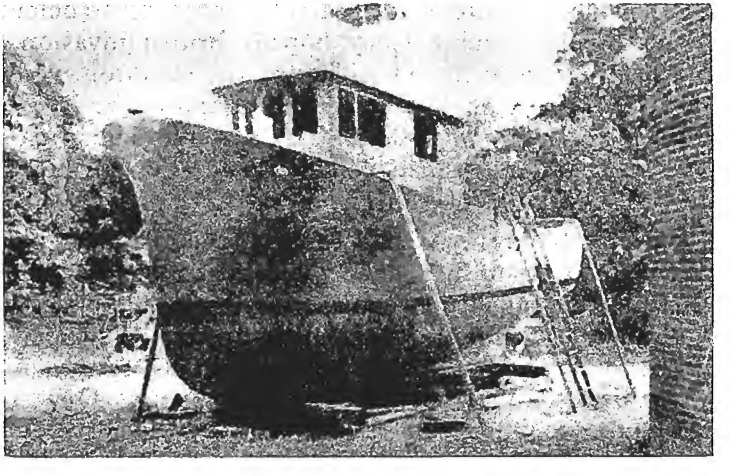
Beach at Tortuga Island in Haiti, advanced base of Operation Atlantis (from* Atlantis News*).

Inland view of Tortuga Island in Haiti (from* Atlantis News*).

to minority stockholders. Practically speaking, this precluded the making of any credible sales pitch to other investors — if the founder wouldn't commit his own firm, why should any outside investor act differently?

I visited the motel in September, 1969, at the time that had been announced for the launching of the ferrocement ship. I arrived Saturday afternoon, and innocently asked when the launching was scheduled. When the laughter died down, I was able to learn from the people at the motel that the ship was three to six months from launching, but that no one had had the heart to tell this to Mr. Stiefel. Sunday afternoon, it fell to me to tell the emperor that he had no clothes (or ship, in this case). This started things happening.

Professional help was brought in to finish the ship before the Hudson River froze for the winter. The ship was launched early in December, at high tide. The tide went out, and the ship was left lying on its side in the mud. A kerosene lantern left in the wheelhouse broke in this process, but the concrete construction of the vessel limited the fire damage. Nevertheless, it was an omen of things to come.



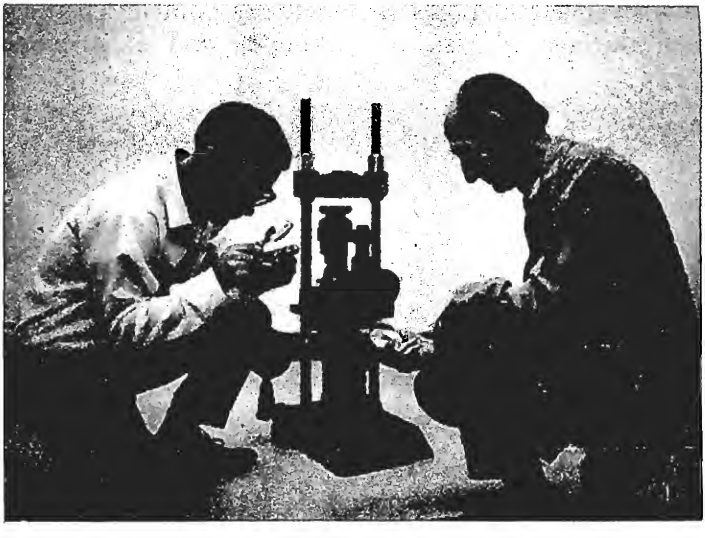
Atlantis II, ***the ferrocement ship built by Operation Atlantis, shortly before launching (from*** **Atlantis News*).***

The ship was loaded to the gunwales with gear for the new country, and sent south to Long Island to be inspected for seaworthiness. It appears that the Atlanteans took a few liberties with the ship's design to make it more suitable for their purposes. For example, a (concrete) deckhouse was added. This made the vessel extremely topheavy. All gear was stripped from the ship except what was needed to make it operable, and replaced by ballast. It still almost capsized from superstructure icing while crossing the mouth of New York harbor. Then it broke a propeller shaft off South Carolina, and finally limped into the Bahamas. There it stayed until it sank in a hurricane.

Meanwhile, there was the matter of a site for the new country. Earlier, the island of Anguilla (population 6000) had been given independence by Great Britain as part of a federation with the much larger islands of St. Kitts and Nevis. Anguillans were unhappy with this arrangement, always having been looked down on by the St. Kitts and Nevis people, and sought direct rule by the British once more. To this end, they adopted the strategy from the movie *The Mouse That Roared* — the original strategy, that of declaring war on the great power and losing, not the threat of using a doomsday weapon. They announced their secession from the larger islands, and proclaimed their preparedness to defend the island against the coming (they hoped) British invasion. The British tried to ignore them and hoped the situation would go away, but eventually they gave in and dropped the Red Devil parachute regiment on the island. The islanders had a glorious holiday, the British troops had a smashing good training exercise, and a quick and amicable surrender was arranged.

In their effort to provoke the British, the islanders put out appeals for investors in their new nation. Mr. Stiefel made a visit there, with a view to getting rights to the Prickly Pear Cays (two nearby flyspecks totalling 157 acres), but after the surrender he had to look elsewhere. He settled on Silver Shoals, an area of reefs in the Carribean claimed by Haiti and the Bahamas. Once again, an attempt to slip into an area in dispute, with the predictable consequences: the wrath of both nations to deal with. This touchiness was exacerbated by the fact that Silver Shoals got their name from the number of Spanish treasure galleons reputed to have sunk there, with both countries hoping to recover the loot.

One Deca silver coin, the currency of Operation Atlantis (from **Atlantis News***).*



Operation Atlantis personnel inspect the first Deca ever minted (from **Atlantis News***).*

Haiti was, at that time, promoting a freeport development on Tortuga Island off its north coast. Stiefel acquired some land there to use as a base. But the Haitians soon learned about his designs on the Silver Shoals, which had been published in the *Atlantis News*, and this forced Operation Atlantis into a low-profile posture from which it has never emerged. Subsequent letters from one of the Atlanteans operating in Haiti indicated that things were not going well.

The last visible part of Operation Atlantis was the Atlantis Commodities Purchasing Service (ATCOPS), billed as the "precursor to the Bank of Atlantis," the intended central bank of the new country. Silver-denominated accounts were offered: dollars tendered were converted into decagrams (10 grams of silver, the official currency of Atlantis) at the prevailing price of silver. Three percent interest was paid, in decagrams, and balances were converted back into dollars at the then-current silver price for withdrawals. Accounts were last reported offered in 1976.

A few silver "deca" coins were actually minted. The dies were delivered during my visit to the motel, and a hand-operated

Prickly Pear Cays, off Anguilla, once considered as the site for Operation Atlantis (from* Atlantis News*).

hydraulic soap press at Stiefel's factory was used to turn out a few barely-legible samples that weekend. The sales of these coins seemed to have a potential to be a significant moneymaker for the project, but production apparently never got into high gear.

At the Freeland Conference (see the Access chapter) in 1983, Spencer MacAllum (the proprietary community advocate and author of *The Art of Community*) revealed that the proposed constitution/contract for a hypothetical space colony called Orbis (copies available; see the Access chapter) was in fact commissioned by Stiefel as the contract to cover participants in Operation Atlantis (the contract's existence was announced, but its text was never made public under that name). It was published under the Orbis name as a cover story, to avoid alerting existing nations. MacAllum also reported that, after the sinking of the ferrocement ship and the crackdown by the government of Haiti, landfill operations were conducted on the Silver Shoals site by a vessel owned by Stiefel Laboratories. Some silver (from the sunken galleons) was actually found, which helped in tax matters — the dredging was undertaken under the aegis of a United States "Subchapter S" corporation whose declared purpose was hunting for treasure, and the finding of silver would help convince the Internal Revenue Service that the treasure-hunting purpose was bona fide, thus qualifying the corporation for special tax breaks.

At last report, according to MacAllum, the debt incurred in these operations had been almost entirely paid down by Stiefel, who still had hopes for making a go of Atlantis. MacAllum indicated that contact could be made with Stiefel through his (MacAllum's) Heather Foundation (see the Access chapter).

The principal lesson to be learned from all this is the importance of taking the project as seriously as it deserves. If your only ambitions are for a model country, then Sunday afternoons may be enough. But for a fully sovereign nation, you have to be ready to pledge life, fortune and sacred honor. Further, the matter of how sovereignty over the target area is to be secured needs to be given prompt attention, rather than frittering away scarce resources on peripheral matters, only to have the whole house of cards brought down at the first brush with the sovereignty question in the real world.

AURORA, KINGDOM OF

Aurora is a proposal from the 1970's, to have certain islands in the South Pacific secede from the established nation by which they are presently ruled. The name of the existing nation is not disclosed, for security reasons. However, Aurora is also the name of one of the northern islands in the New Hebrides, the focus of the seccessionist activity discussed below in connection with Michael J. Oliver. This project stands out from similar ventures by Oliver in that the promoters themselves appear to already own the land involved as private landowners, and to be operating it as a going copra plantation business with "imported labor" (there are reported to be no native residents on the islands). They have published a detailed prospectus, including a British-sounding constitution for the Kingdom of Aurora. Independence is to be achieved by immigrants. These immigrants are to pay for their own upkeep, weapons, transportation, etc. Once independence has been established, they are to be allowed to buy land, at prices considerably above the price of conventional land in that area. In short, the promoters of Aurora (Luman Norton Nevels, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann, who style themselves the Royal Family) propose to make no net financial contribution to the independence process, serving solely as leaders. Such a zero-dollar operation seems unlikely to attract much interest, since operations such as the Occupation of Minerva (see below) have offered more liberal terms without generating any great interest.

The United States Agency of Aurora is given as Box 10027, Waialae-Kahala, Hawaii 96816. The South African Agency is B.R.v.d. Westhuizen, Box 178, Ficksburg 9730, Republic of South Africa. The European Agency is Chateau de Levis, Lurcy-Levis 03320, Allier, France. There has been no recent news of Aurora.

AUSTRALIA — See HUTT RIVER PROVINCE

AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK, GREAT — See BURKE, SHIRE OF

AUTHORITY, WORLD SERVICE — See WORLD SERVICE AUTHORITY

AZORES — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

BAHAMAS — See **ABACO**

BAHAMAS — See**ATLANTIS, NEW**

BAHAMAS — See **FREEPORT**

BALD ISLAND, OUTER — See **BALDONIA, OUTER**

BALD TUSKET ISLAND — See **BALDONIA, OUTER**

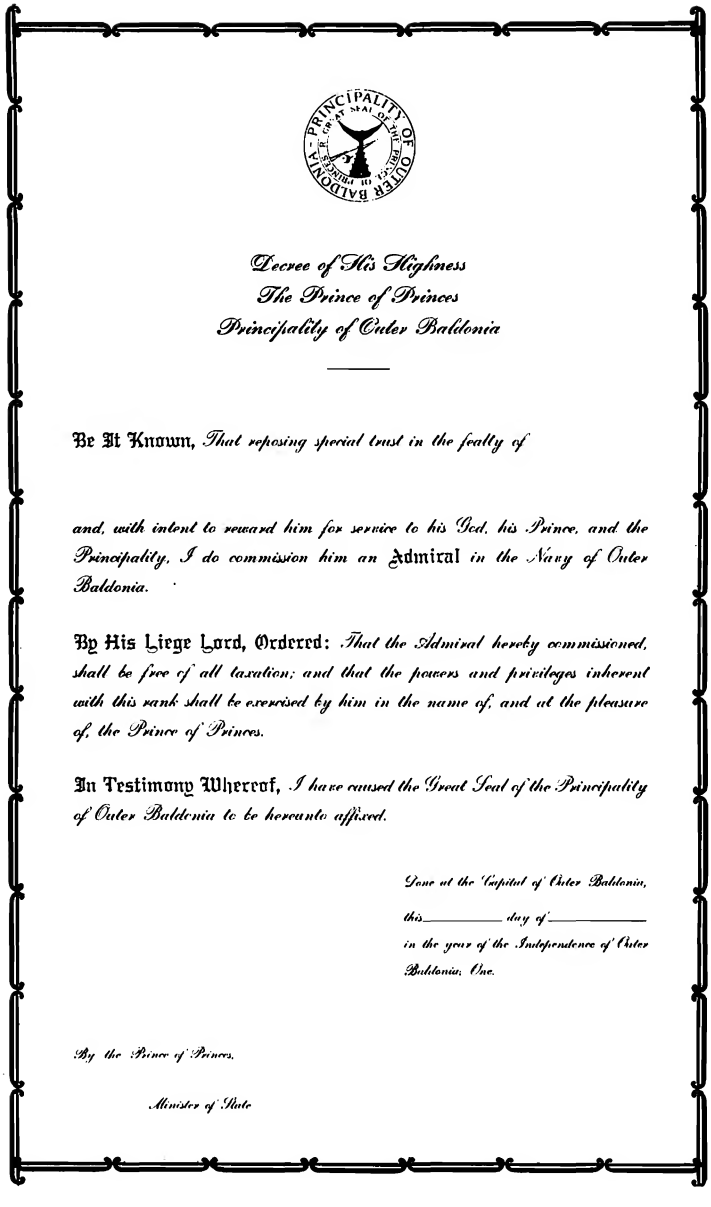
BALDONIA, OUTER

This is another classic model-country operation, very similar to Atland, described above (except more openly tongue-in-cheek). In 1948, a Washington, DC, businessman named Russell Arundel, following a fishing trip, declared Outer Bald Island in the Tusket Islands of Nova Scotia (also known as Bald Tusket Island) to be the principality of Outer Baldonia. Prince Russell had some coins minted which he gave to friends. Apparently the Soviet Union took his declaration seriously, and denounced him in their press. At one point, radio station WAVA (5232 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA) became involved.

BANNER, NEW

This was the name of a newspaper published by a libertarian group headed by J. Michael Oliver (not to be confused with Michael J. Oliver, discussed below). They took the step of putting their anarchistic ideas into practice. These included each individual taking his own action to remedy wrongs done against him. They ran afoul of the local authorities (in South Carolina) when one member of the group was reported to have been chained to an ironing board by another to work off some penance. The group apparently petered out after that, in the early 1970's.

BARBUDA — See **ARAGON, NEW**



Decree of His Highness
The Prince of Princes
Principality of Outer Baldonia

Be It Known, *That reposing special trust in the fealty of*

and, with intent to reward him for service to his God, his Prince, and the Principality, I do commission him an Admiral *in the Navy of Outer Baldonia.*

By His Liege Lord, Ordered: *That the Admiral hereby commissioned, shall be free of all taxation; and that the powers and privileges inherent with this rank shall be exercised by him in the name of, and at the pleasure of, the Prince of Princes.*

In Testimony Whereof, *I have caused the Great Seal of the Principality of Outer Baldonia to be hereunto affixed.*

Done at the Capital of Outer Baldonia,
this_____ day of_____
in the year of the Independence of Outer Baldonia, One.

By the Prince of Princes,

Minister of State

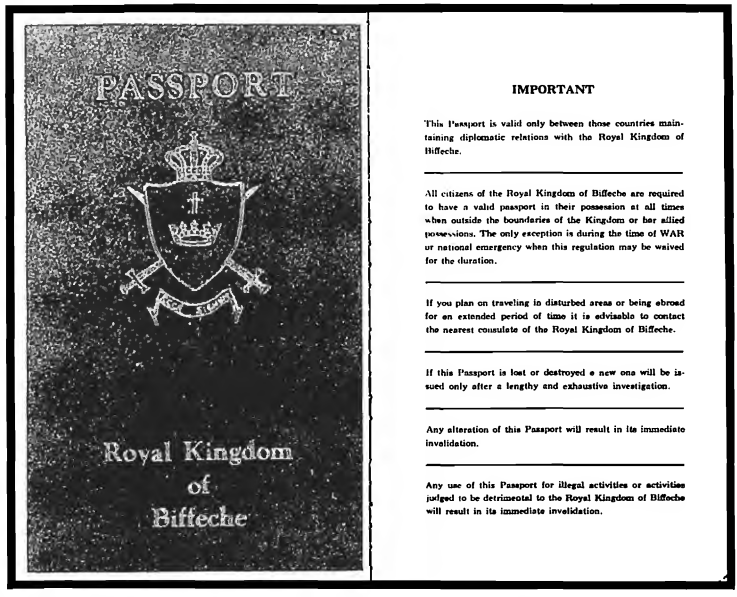
A decree from the Principality of Outer Baldonia, bestowing the rank of Admiral on the bearer (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

BARBUDA

This is a story similar to that of Anguilla, described in connection with Operation Atlantis above. The 1200 people of Barbuda were granted independence as part of the much larger (population 70,000) nation of Antigua, and sought a return to direct British rule by declaring their independence. Apparently this trick is getting a bit old in the eyes of the British, and there has been no report of any move to invade by the United Kingdom.

BIFFECHE

This is a tribe in the African country of Senegal that is not happy with the central government there. A white man, Ed Schafer of St. Louis MO, claims to be the king of the tribe and to speak for their aspirations. Ronald B. Reisinger claims the title of Duke of Biffeche. This seems to be a cross between a mouse that roared (a la Anguilla and Barbuda) and a model-country project, the latter riding piggyback on the former.


PASSPORT
Royal Kingdom
of
Biffeche
IMPORTANT
This Passport is valid only between those countries maintaining diplomatic relations with the Royal Kingdom of Biffeche.
All citizens of the Royal Kingdom of Biffeche are required to have a valid passport in their possession at all times when outside the boundaries of the Kingdom or her allied possessions. The only exception is during the time of WAR or national emergency when this regulation may be waived for the duration.
If you plan on traveling in disturbed areas or being abroad for an extended period of time it is advisable to contact the nearest consulate of the Royal Kingdom of Biffeche.
If this Passport is lost or destroyed a new one will be issued only after a lengthy and exhaustive investigation.
Any alteration of this Passport will result in its immediate invalidation.
Any use of this Passport for illegal activities or activities judged to be detrimental to the Royal Kingdom of Biffeche will result in its immediate invalidation.

A passport from the Royal Kingdom of Biffeche, showing cover and last page (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

BIG AMBERGRIS

In 1979, an investigator in an Arizona sheriff's office claimed to have prevented an outfit with organized crime connections from setting up a country on the Carribean island of Big Ambergris. He asserted that the British authorities in the area were all set to sell the group sovereignty to the island, but I find this hard to believe. More likely, they were considering a conventional freeport agreement, under which the promoters promise to make certain investments, in exchange for which the prevailing authorities promise to grant certain tax and similar concessions for a limited period of time.

There have been a number of cases in which new-country organizers and local authorities have failed to make clear to each other the exact status of the proposed development, the new country people assuming full transfer of sovereignty is involved, while the authorities have only a freeport arrangement in mind. These questions should be resolved at the earliest possible stage. It may be tempting to defer such hard matters when other aspects of the negotiations are going smoothly, figuring these "details" can be worked out later. This is a fool's paradise. There is nothing to be gained but trouble by postponing the question of sovereignty — and little prospect of getting sovereignty without the military muscle to back it up (as discussed in earlier chapters).

BROADCASTING SHIPS, "PIRATE" RADIO AND TELEVISION — See **SHIPS**

BROTHEL SHIP — See **SHIPS**

BUREAU, TRANS-ANTARCTIC TREATIES INFORMATION — See **MEVU**

BURKE, SHIRE OF

This is a model-country operation based in Australia. For five Australian dollars, they offer a passport and a certificate as an "Honorary Citizen of the Shire of Burke (known as the Mouse that Roared) and of The Great Australian Outback" (a 2″ by 2″ photograph is optional; will be included in passport if submitted).

For an additional eight Australian dollars, the certificate will be framed. The address is The Shire Clerk, The Civic Centre, Burketown, Queensland 4830, Australia.

BYRD LAND, MARIE — See **ARYANA**

CAICOS, TURKS AND — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

CALIFORNIA, FREE STATE OF

This is a tongue-in-cheek model-country operation, whose sole product appears to be a 24-page passport that looks impressively official — till you start reading it. For example, the space in the bearer's description marked "Height" is annotated "do not fill this in until you grow up." In place of the date of birth, the bearer can fill in the appropriate astrological sign. The price is listed at $3.25 retail, $21 a dozen wholesale, from Gil Moore, JGM Productions, 4226 Folsom St., San Francisco CA 94110, phone (415)282-2667. It was printed by the Sword Printing Co. in South San Francisco. Moore and/or the printer might be willing to do a passport or other documents for your own model country.

CALLAWAY, KINGDOM OF

During the American Civil War, the county of Callaway in the state of Missouri sympathized with the Confederacy, but was facing occupation by an overwhelming Union force. Col. Jefferson Jones mounted an impressive display of force, complete with a dummy cannon of wood painted black. Unaware that Jones had only 300 old men and boys, Union Gen. John B. Henderson signed a mutual non-aggression treaty with Callaway, which then became known as the Kingdom of Callaway. Of course, as soon as the Union decided it was time to move into the area, the treaty meant nothing. This reinforces Machiavelli's dictum, "Put not your faith in Princes" — nor in their scraps of paper.

CAPRI REPUBLIC, GRAND — See **ATLANTIS, ISLE OF GOLD**

CASS

This is a county in Michigan that did a mouse-that-roared number because of unhappiness on the part of businessmen with the Michigan unemployment tax structure (i.e., they were unhappy at paying for Detroit's unemployment). Rather than become fully independent, they proposed to join the state of Indiana. Cass County Clerk Richard Poe, of 22 years tenure, headed up the Citizens for Secession group. A circuit-court judge, James Hoff, has ruled against the secession, though Poe remained hopeful at last word.

CASTELLANIA, FURSTENTUM

"Furstentum" is the German word for "Principality." This seems to be a fairly straight-forward model-country operation with commercial purposes, with a starting date of February 17, 1974. Otto Hubner, an erstwhile Austrian, declared himself Prince Ralph I, and sells citizenships for $145 (which includes a passport). It is claimed that 2000 of these have been sold, with the proceeds used to print stamps and other promotional material. Ralph I denies the commercial motivation, and claims to have resettled 40 or 50 Vietnamese refugee fishermen on an undisclosed island in the South Pacific.

The operation works through commercial representatives, which it claims to have in 15 countries. The United States representative is Nelson White, Box 40201, Pasadena CA 91104. An information package costs $5. Press credentials, degrees (from the University of Castellania), honors (from the Academy of Castellania) and postage stamps are also available. An announced goal is the conferring of a doctoral degree on every Austrian, as a rebuttal to the Austrian tendency to look down on anyone who isn't a Herr Doktor.

CAUCASIA, TRANS — See TRANSCAUCASIA

CELESTIA

In 1948, James Thompson Mangan (5141 Wolfe Dr., Oak Lawn IL 60453) laid claim to all of space, calling his nation Celestia. Some coins were minted: the Erg, the Gold Celeston and the Silver

Staatswappen des Fürstentum Castellania
(State Coat of Arms)

Staatssiegel des Fürstentum Castellania
(State Seal)

Staatsflagge des Fürstentum Castellania
(State Flag)

Three stamps issued by Furstentum Castellania, along with the coat of arms, state seal and flag, all from promotional literature.

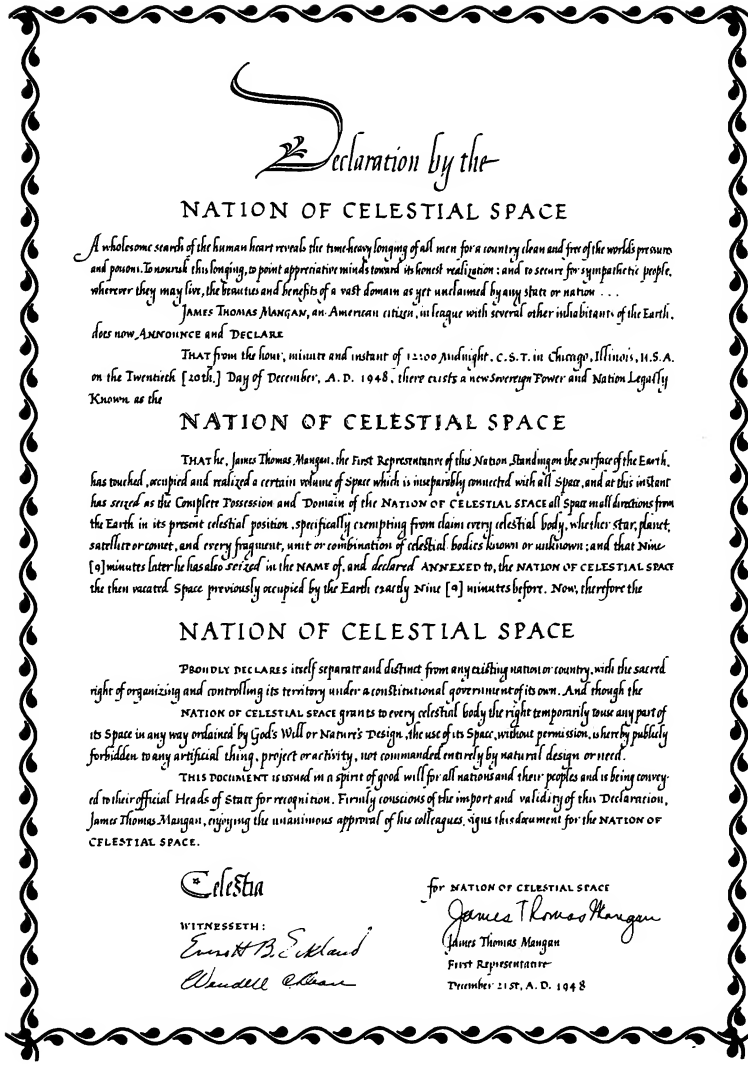
Joule. He was reported still active in 1959. In 1963, he wrote a book on salesmanship called *The Secret of Perfect Living*, which seems to have done fairly well.

A sheet of stamps from Celestia (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

CHAITLIN, FREE TERRITORY OF ELY — See **ELY-CHAITLIN, FREE TERRITORY OF**

CHAMA, LA REPUBLICA PUEBLO SAN JOAQUIN DEL RIO DE

In the 1960's and 1970's, Reies Lopez Tijerina led a movement of Spanish Land Grant holders in New Mexico seeking to get their land back from the current possessors, claiming the terms of their grants had been violated by the United States. Part of his campaign was a claim that he was the successor to a rebel move-



Declaration by the

NATION OF CELESTIAL SPACE

A wholesome search of the human heart reveals the time-honored longing of all men for a country clean and free of the world's pressures and poisons. To nourish this longing, to point appreciative minds toward its honest realization: and to secure for sympathetic people, wherever they may live, the benefits of a vast domain as yet unclaimed by any state or nation . . .

James Thomas Mangan, an American citizen, in league with several other inhabitants of the Earth, does now Announce and Declare

That from the hour, minute and instant of 12:00 Midnight, C.S.T. in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. on the Twentieth [20th.] Day of December, A.D. 1948, there exists a new Sovereign Power and Nation Legally Known as the

NATION OF CELESTIAL SPACE

That he, James Thomas Mangan, the First Representative of this Nation Standing on the surface of the Earth, has touched, occupied and realized a certain volume of Space which is inseparably connected with all Space, and at this instant has seized as the Complete Possession and Domain of the Nation of Celestial Space all Space in all directions from the Earth in its present celestial position, specifically excepting from claim every celestial body, whether star, planet, satellite or comet, and every fragment, unit or combination of celestial bodies known or unknown; and that Nine [9] minutes later he has also seized in the name of, and declared Annexed to, the Nation of Celestial Space the then vacated Space previously occupied by the Earth exactly Nine [9] minutes before. Now, therefore the

NATION OF CELESTIAL SPACE

Proudly declares itself separate and distinct from any existing nation or country, with the sacred right of organizing and controlling its territory under a constitutional government of its own. And though the Nation of Celestial Space grants to every celestial body the right temporarily to use any part of its Space in any way ordained by God's Will or Nature's Design, the use of its Space without permission, is hereby publicly forbidden to any artificial thing, project or activity, not commanded entirely by natural design or need.

This Document is issued in a spirit of good will for all nations and their peoples and is being conveyed to their official Heads of State for recognition. Firmly conscious of the import and validity of this Declaration, James Thomas Mangan, enjoying the unanimous approval of his colleagues, signs this document for the Nation of Celestial Space.

Celestia

for Nation of Celestial Space

James Thomas Mangan

James Thomas Mangan
First Representative
December 21st, A.D. 1948

witnesseth:

Ernest B. Eckland

Wendell Clausen

Declaration announcing the formation of the Nation of Celestial Space (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

ment in Spanish Mexico in 1806 (when New Mexico was still part of Mexico) by the name given above. Ultimately, he staged a raid on a courthouse in New Mexico, and was tracked down in the hills by the National Guard. This illustrates the folly of directly defying an established country without the military muscle to make it stick.

CHEROKEE NATION

This is a classic example of taking the high-cost litigation route to a new country. In 1967, Hurricane Beulah changed the course of the Rio Grande separating Mexico and the United States slightly. Specifically, a small spit of land connecting a 183-acre island to the Texas side of the border was cut through. The new country promoter, Herbert M. Williams of Brownsville, Texas, claims that this made it part of Mexico. Further, he claims that obscure Mexican law makes any Indian owner of a border territory a Mexican citizen (Williams is one-quarter Cherokee Indian). Williams claims to have secured Mexican title to the land in 1974, and says that if Mexico doesn't cede him sovereignty, he will legally adopt 300,000 fellow Cherokees, and sell them each a square foot of the island. This will make them Mexican citizens, and together they will outnumber the other residents of Tamaulipas state in Mexico, elect their own governor, and generally make trouble.

In 1983, he was reported to still be active, offering stamps and coins for sale.

The legal merits of his case aside, his chances of getting favorable rulings in the end are essentially nil, but as of 1979, he said he had spent $500,000 in legal fees and such on the project. As long as he keeps spending money like that (he describes himself as a rancher, real-estate speculator and surplus-arms dealer, and appears to be quite rich), he should be able to keep the pot boiling almost indefinitely. However, the chances of ever realizing any net profit are as negligible as his chances of ultimately winning his legal actions.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND — See **ATLANTIS, NEW**

CITY — See name of city. E.g., for **CITY OF ARYANA** see **ARYANA**

CLIPPERTON

This is a flyspeck island about 1000 miles off the Pacific coast of Mexico. It is uninhabited, but claimed by France. This claim was recently backed up by expeditions of the nature film-maker Jacques Cousteau, reported to be a commander in the French Naval Reserve.

During World War I, while the French were bogged down in the trenches of Europe, Mexico sent out a group to occupy the place. However, Mexico was soon preoccupied with the Pancho Villa uprising and the subsequent United States invasion, and abandoned the occupiers. The result was a rather gruesome scenario of ever-shorter supplies, rape and murder. After the war, the French came back and picked up the last survivors. This should serve as a cautionary tale for new countries planning to occupy such locations, especially those using the "vonu" approach, under which no one in the outside world would know about the community's existence.

Recently, a fellow in Seattle has been going around dressed in naval whites styling himself the Emperor of Clipperton. He doesn't seem to have any idea of ever going there, apparently conducting a model-country exercise. Nevertheless, the French have become even more paranoid than usual about the place, and permission to visit it cannot be obtained any more.

COCOS ISLANDS

This is a small island dependency of Australia, also known as the Keeling Islands. It has not been the site of any known new-country activity. It is often confused with the Caicos Islands in the Carribean, which were the object of a venture of Michael J. Oliver, described below.

COLONIA — See SPRATLY ISLANDS

COLONIZATION SOCIETY, AMERICAN — See AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY

COMMON LAW — See GOOD FAITH TOWNSHIP

COMMON LAW

This is a general category under the litigation or "vonu" approaches, rather than a specific new country. It is apparently designed to attract people in the United States who can't quite bring themselves to repudiate that country's laws. The promoters take the line that, under the Anglo-Saxon common law, individuals and groups have the right to secede from the United States and/or form their own self-governing "townships" within it. Whatever its legal merits in the abstract, the existing United States courts have shown little patience with it whenever they have rendered a final decision. Walter P. Mann III (a survivalist-oriented Mormon) has offered seminars on how to form one's own "common-law government," at a base fee of $1000, plus numerous "extras." He styles himself a common-law "Counsel at Law," not a lawyer. Another contact is Gordon Davis, c/o Justice Township, Rt. 1, Box 24, Westminster SC 29693. Telephone (803)647-9815. No fees included.

COMMUNE, PARIS — See PARIS COMMUNE

COMPANY — See name of company

CONCH REPUBLIC

This is a mouse-that-roared operation on Key West in Florida. Because of the high incidence of illegal immigration and drug smuggling into the United States in that area, a roadblock was set up in April of 1982. This caused a 19-mile-long traffic jam, and incensed the local tourist industry. On April 23, 1982, they declared themselves to be the Conch (pronounced "konk") Republic. A silver commemorative medal was produced, and the first anniversary of independence was celebrated by a Festival Weekend. Conch shells were sent out to the media to promote the event. The spokesman seems to be George Tregaskis, of Key West FL 33040.

COOLAND — See REFAIM, WEST

COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF MEVU, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC — See MEVU

COUNANI, REPUBLIC OF

This is another of the French model-country ventures dating back to the last century. The territory claimed lies south of the Guianas in South America, and north of the Amazon River, in Brazil. The borders in that area are generally disputed. It started in 1886, and was mainly active until 1905. The French author Jules Gros headed up the "Counanian Council" in Paris, which put out stamps and honorific orders. Adolphe Brezet actually visited the area at the time. His heirs sold all remaining paraphernalia in 1977 to the British stamp auction house of Stanley Gibbons.

CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, SOCIETY FOR

In terms of man-hours spent in furthering its activities, this model-country group may be the largest new-country operation on record. It claims 6,000 subscribers interested in the Medieval era, with several times that number participating in various activities. They are dedicated to living in the "current Middle Ages," which are designed to recreate the Medieval period (in the words of T.H. White, author of the Arthurian saga *The Once and Future King*) "not as it was, but as it should have been." That is, plagues and poverty are not re-created, but the pageantry and other attractive aspects are.

The group started in California in 1966, but now stretches worldwide. It is structured as an empire, subdivided into seven kingdoms. The kingdoms are further divided into baronies, principalities, and so on. Lesser ranks (earls, knights, etc.) are also conferred. The offices within the Society (Emperor, kingships, etc.) are decided through trial by combat. Members wear authentic-style armor, usually handmade by themselves, from plumed helmets to chain mail. They do battle with rattan sticks as swords. Most subdivisions of the Society have seneschals, chief heralds, etc., who serve at the pleasure of the victors in the combats, and who handle the day-to-day administrative affairs of the Society.

The titles and coats-of-arms established by the Society are said to be recognized by a number of traditional heraldic societies in Europe. Interested persons are referred to the Registry, Society for Creative Anachronism, Box 594, Concord CA 94522.

DEFENSE LEAGUE, FREE MARKET — See **FREE MARKET DEFENSE LEAGUE**

DEL MAR, TIERRA — See **ATLANTIS, NEW**

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF MEVU — See **MEVU**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF QUAY — See **QUAY**

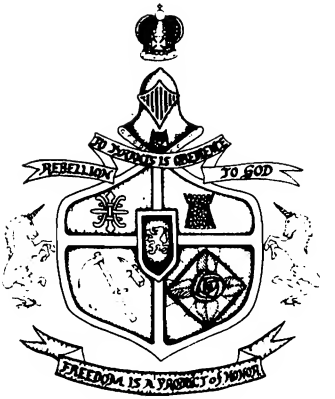
DERANG, SEBIS — See **SEBIS—DERANG**

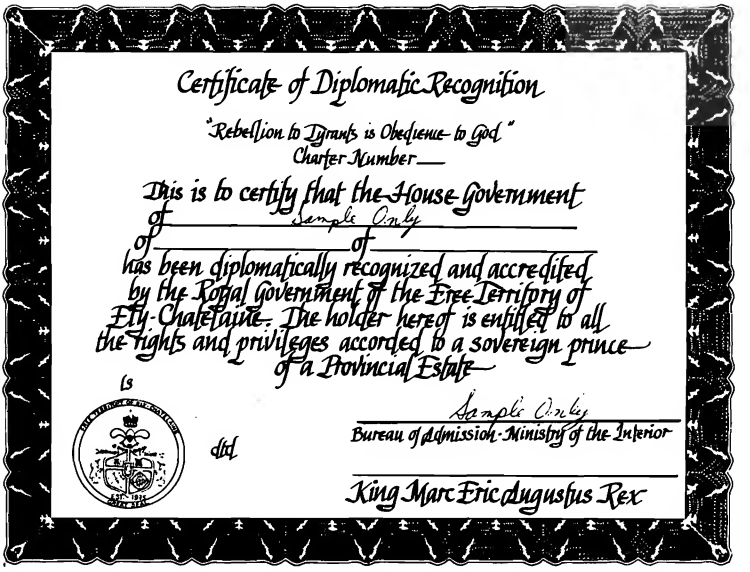
DOMINION OF THE SEA — See **SEA, DOMINION OF THE**

ELY-CHAITLIN, FREE TERRITORY OF

As a teenager growing up, Marc Eric Ely decided to cope with the various stresses of adolescence by constructing a fantasy, in which he was a Noble Prince, and his room was his domain. As the time came when he set up housekeeping on his own, had various conflicts with his parents, and went through similar events familiar to many, he set down descriptions of his experiences using the language and styles of royalty and diplomacy. Thus his history was presented as great dynastic events. Taken all together, his story makes the point (reminiscent of the ending of the movie version of *The Wizard of Oz*) that all any impoverished emigre European royalty has, that anyone else doesn't have, is a bunch of fancy titles. Therefore, all one has to do is assume such titles for oneself, and one can be as good as they are (of course, some emigres have more money than you or I, and royalty that still rules commands more men with guns, but these "details" can be ignored, within certain limits).

The dynastic name he assumed was "Ely-Chaitlin," which he derived from the French "Chatelaine," meaning head of a




Certificate of Diplomatic Recognition
"Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God."
Charter Number ___
This is to certify that the House Government
of Sample Only
of
has been diplomatically recognized and accredited
by the Royal Government of the Free Territory of
Ely-Chaitlin. The holder hereof is entitled to all
the rights and privileges accorded to a sovereign prince
of a Provincial Estate
Is
Sample Only
Bureau of Admission - Ministry of the Interior
dtd
King Marc Eric Augustus Rex

The Great Seal of the Free Territory of Ely-Chaitlin and a certificate granting diplomatic recognition to other provincial estates.

household. He called his holdings the Free Territory of Ely-Chaitlin. His noble titles were Prince of State and Grand Duke of Government. He invites others to form their own holdings, assume their own noble styles, and declare alliance with him. *Becoming an American Prince — A Handbook* is advertised for $1 from Royal Port, F.T.E.C., Box 20693, Seattle WA 98102. A form for declaring sovereignty and/or alliance with the Free Territory is included.

EMPIRE — See name of empire

ENCLAVE, LAISSEZ FAIRE — See **LAISSEZ FAIRE ENCLAVE**

EUROPE, HONG KONG — See **HONG KONG EUROPE**

F.T.E.C. — See **ELY-CHAITLIN, FREE TERRITORY OF**

FAIRE ENCLAVE, LAISSEZ — See **LAISSEZ FAIRE ENCLAVE**

FALKLAND/MALVINAS ISLANDS — See **JASON ISLANDS**

FLOATING REPUBLIC

One of the earliest attempts to establish a new country entirely on board ship on the high seas occured in 1797, when the crews of a number of the British ships blockading Napoleon's France mutinied, and declared themselves the Floating Republic, modeled on Bonapartist lines. An interesting sidelight is that one of the captains mutinied against was William Bligh, of *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame (see Pitcairn Island below)

FOUNDATION — See name of foundation

FREE COUNTRY NEWSLETTER

Five issues of this newsletter (produced by photocopying the output of a computer's dot-matrix printer) were published in the

early 1980's by Ed Andrews, Box 39924, Denver CO 80239. The emphasis was on floating communities at sea. He reported insufficient interest to continue publishing, but remains interested in the concept.

FREE ISLES

In the early 1960's, groups polarized around the teachings of Ayn Rand were founded across the United States. In southern California, one such group formed plans for a new country. This was to consist of a number of essentially independent mini-countries, loosely confederated under an umbrella organization, the Association of Free Isles. The concept was marketed in a manner reminiscent of franchise sales, like Amway distibutorships or Tupperware parties. "Seminars" with a strong motivational flavor were organized. Invitations were issued in the form of "passports," and substantial effort was put into the preparation of materials for these meetings. However, little interest was found outside the original group, possibly because the scheme was based on the assumption that sovereignty over undeveloped land or islands would be easily purchased when the time came. No details of where or how this was to be accomplished were put forward.

After a time, the emphasis of the group moved on to the concept of underground living — that is, living within the boundaries of existing countries, but out of sight and mind of the existing government. Some members of the group took to nomadic living in vans and campers, and the group newsletter (*Innovator*, available from the Libertarian/Decentralist Copying Service identified in the Access chapter) turned to how-to-do-it details of their lifestyle, called "vonu" (their newsletter became *Vonulife*). Some members of the group moved into the mountains in central and eastern Oregon and Washington State. Communications from these people became less and less frequent, and they appear to have achieved their goal of invisibility to the outside world. What has become of them in the last ten or fifteen years is a mystery. They could have been eaten by bears, they could be selling stocks and bonds on Wall Street (like some prominent New Left radicals of the same period) — or they could still be in the hills, practicing their doctrines. This is one form of new country that seems to have

a fair prospect of success with little capital, although it is a demanding way of life.

FREE MARKET DEFENSE LEAGUE

This is a common-law township (see Common Law, above) organized in southern California. The name appears to have been taken from the militant Jewish Defense League, which has been involved in a number of violent incidents. Presumably, the ominous overtones are intentional. Anthony Hargis (operator of a gold bank, analagous to the ATCOPS silver bank run by Operation Atlantis described above) is identified as a principal, and the address is given as 1515 W. MacArthur, Unit 19, Costa Mesa CA 92626.

FREE PORT — See **FREEPORT**

FREE STATE OF CALIFORNIA — See **CALIFORNIA, FREE STATE OF**

FREE TERRITORY OF ELY-CHAITLIN — See **ELY-CHAITLIN, FREE TERRITORY OF**

FREEDOMLAND — See **SPRATLY ISLANDS**

FREEPORT

This is a classic freeport operation. Some entrepeneurs made a deal with the government of the Bahamas to develop Grand Bahama Island, the largest island in the chain. They would build casinos, hotels, roads, schools, etc. In exchange, the Bahamas would give them freedom from certain taxes and other controls. As the island was built up, and the investment irrevocably committed, the central government started narrowing its interpretation of the concessions granted. Naturally, the investors set up a howl, but it's not clear whether the crackdown was actually sooner and harsher than they expected, or whether the investors had arranged their affairs to have recouped their investment before the crackdown was complete and were merely trying to get the last dollar they could. It is difficult to believe that they were so naive as

to actually expect the Bahamas government to adhere to its agreement over the decades it was nominally to run.

FTEC — See **ELY-CHAITLIN, FREE TERRITORY OF**

FURSTENTUM CASTELLANIA — See **CASTELLANIA**

GAMBLING SHIPS — See **SHIPS, GAMBLING**

GONDOR AND ARNOR, THE KINGDOMS OF

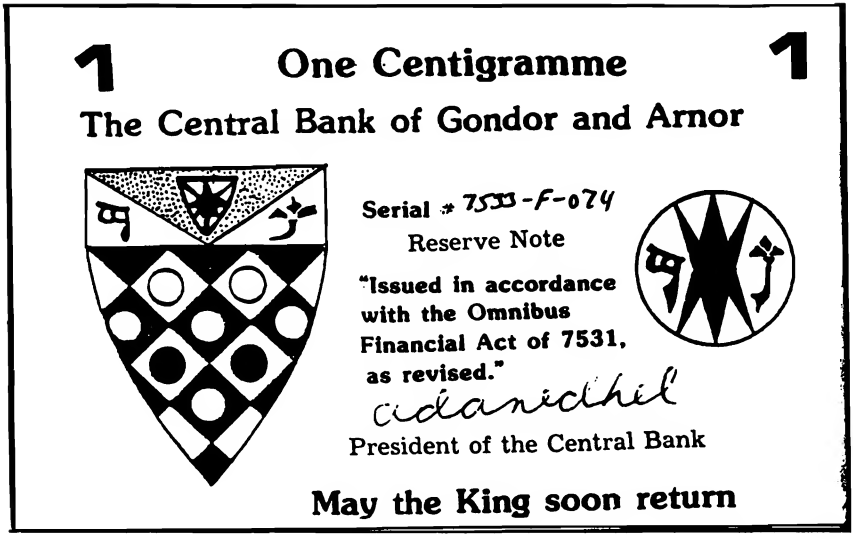
This is a model-country venture based on the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Lord of The Rings*). It is run by the Duke of Numenor, Mr. Houghton, John Borroughs School, Ladue MO 63124. The literature of the medieval era and related fantasies has been a source of inspiration for a number of such model countries, prominent among which is the Society for Creative Anachronism described above.

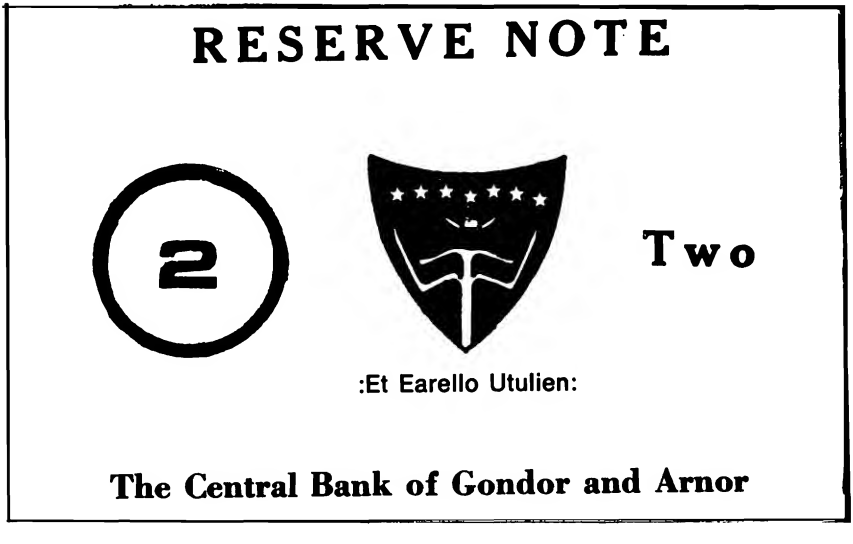
GOOD FAITH TOWNSHIP

This is a common-law township in southeastern Washington State, formed with the help of Walter Mann (see Common Law above). One of its members (styling himself township coroner) was recently convicted of tearing up a water line crossing his land. The local press pictured him holding a professional-looking car license plate with "Good Faith Township" across the top, and "Posse-USA-Militia" across the bottom. Meetings were reported to be attracting around 50 people. Betty McCorkle is identified as the township's foreign ambassador. Walla Walla County prosecutor Art Eggers reported that the group was considering an alliance with the neo-Nazi Aryan Nation in Idaho, described above, but this was denied by McCorkle. Nevertheless, there is a strong anti-Jewish line in much of their literature.

GOUST

This is yet another French model country promotion of the last century. It is about one square mile in the Pyrenees Mountains near the border with Spain that was inadvertently left out of a treaty consolidating a number of small countries into France or


1
One Centigramme
1
The Central Bank of Gondor and Arnor
Serial # 7533-F-074
Reserve Note
"Issued in accordance with the Omnibus Financial Act of 7531, as revised."
President of the Central Bank
May the King soon return



Front and back of reserve notes issued by the Central Bank of Gondor and Arnor (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

Spain around the turn of the century (although it was clearly intended for France to get the territory, and France in fact took possession of it). In this respect it is reminiscent of the Cherokee Nation described above, except that it has a legal pedigree.

GRANBIA

In the 1970's, Andrew Richardson, a technician in the British Post Office, declared his semi-detached house in Liverpool to be the independent country of Granbia, and himself King Andrew I. Six years later, he admitted to flagging interest, although his silver crown (originally worth £1,000) was proving a valuable investment in itself.

GRAND CAPRI REPUBLIC — See **ATLANTIS, ISLE OF GOLD**

GREAT AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK — See **BURKE, SHIRE OF**

GREYSTONE, INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF HAWS AND — See **HAWS AND GREYSTONE, INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF**

GRAIMEL, NA — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

HAWERA

This activity seems to be a mouse-that-roared project that seceded from New Zealand in 1879, apparently on the basis of anti-Maor sentiment (Maoris are the natives indigenous to New Zealand).

HAWS AND GREYSTONE, INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF

This is a mouse-that-roared in England. The latest address is the Administrator, via The Green, near Millom, Cumberland LA18 5HQ, United Kingdom.

HAY

This is a small town in Wales, notable chiefly for what is billed as the world's largest bookstore. Richard Booth, owner of the used book emporium, declared himself King Richard on April 1, 1977, following a zoning contretemps with the local authorities regarding the store. With tongue firmly in cheek, he was still at it at least a year later. Passports of Independent Hay were on sale for £0.75, knighthoods for £1.50, Earldoms for £5.00, and Dukedoms for £25 (which certainly beats Castellania on price). A roster of honors also lists several barons, a Herald Extraordinary, a Poet Laureate, Royal Foresters and an Admiral of the Fleet. No prices are given for these positions, though. An Independence Ale was also promoted. The address given was The Castle, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford, United Kingdom.

HEBRIDES, NEW — See OLIVER, MICHAEL J.

HOMESTEADING, ANTARCTIC — See ANTARCTIC HOMESTEADING

HOMESTEADING ASSOCIATION, LIBERTY WORLD — See ANTARCTIC HOMESTEADING

HONG KONG EUROPE

In the wake of the collapse of the "pirate" radio broadcasting industry off the British coast (described below), a Mr. Richard J. King of the United Kingdom proposed the construction of a large-scale floating platform in the North Sea to conduct radio and television broadcasting, gambling, duty-free shopping and similar enterprises. Mr. King was apparently a zero-dollar operator, and his scheme doesn't seem to have attracted significant backing.

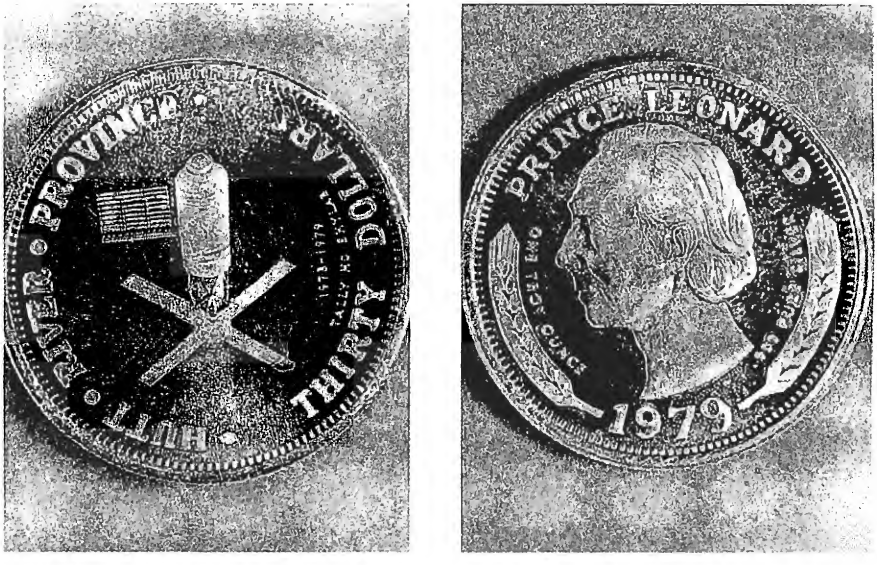
HUTT RIVER PROVINCE

This is one of the most successful model-country ventures going. Leonard Casley in 1964 bought an 18,500 acre ranch in Western Australia, about 380 miles north of Perth on the Hutt River. He was annoyed by Australian wheat quotas, and so proclaimed himself Prince Leonard of the Hutt River Province on April 21,

1970. From time to time, he is fined by the authorities. He pays these fines as an "international courtesy." Recently, his son was fined $45 (the minimum amount) for failing to register for the draft on grounds that he wasn't living in or a citizen of Australia but in and of the Hutt River Province. Prince Leonard apparently does a vigorous tourist business in stamps and coins (he issued a $30 piece to commemorate the fall of the Skylab satellite in western Australia in 1979). He mails his letters with his own stamps in the usual place (upper right hand corner), and (to get them delivered) Australian stamps elsewhere on the envelope. Australia has a

Stamps and paper money from Hutt River Province Principality. Prince Leonard is featured on the money (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

number of obscure island dependencies which are allowed to issue their own stamps and have them recognized as interchangeable with regular Australian stamps, so of course these are the stamps he uses. The currency he sells to tourists (in denominations up to two dollars) is redeemable from him at face value in Australian dollars (though of course little is ever redeemed). The coins are reported to have been accepted at face value as far away as Hong Kong. He has filed suits at the International Court in The Hague, but does not really qualify as an example of the litigation approach since he pays fines that are assessed. He has declared his own holidays, and refuses to participate in the Australian census because he conducts his own census (about 20 people work on the ranch, many of them relatives). He offers ship registrations for sale, and built his own chapel complete with commissioned ceiling paintings. He gives his address as H.R.H. Prince Leonard, via Como, Western Australia. Also given as a contact is Lord John S.



A troy ounce silver coin from Hutt River Province Principality with the likeness of Prince Leonard.

Whatley, 156 Edwards St., Osborne Park, Western Australia 6017. The publisher of Peace Plans (see the Access chapter) is also identified as a source of information.

ILE ROI — See **ROI, ILE**

INDIAN STREAM REPUBLIC

In 1832, a 500-square-mile mountainous area near the New Hampshire/Canada border fell into dispute between the United States and Canada, and 300 residents proclaimed it independent. For six years, neither existing country got around to doing anything about the matter, and the residents maintained their own schools, army, elections, taxes, sheriff and laws. Then the border dispute flared up again, and the New Hampshire militia occupied the area. Today, it's the site of the town of Pittsburg, NH.

With transportation and communication what they are today, places like that don't just get forgotten by the existing nations for such periods of time any more.

INDEPENDENT HAY — See **HAY**

INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF HAWS AND GREYSTONE — See **HAWS AND GREYSTONE, INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF**

INFORMATION BUREAU, TRANS-ANTARCTIC TREATY — See **MEVU**

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION LEAGUE

In 1920, a group of idealists established what amounts to a private-enterprise League of Nations, offering to settle any disputes between nations brought to them. They apparently continued to exist as of last word, at 39 Victoria St., London SW1, United Kingdom.

ISLAND or **ISLE** — See name of island (e.g., for **ISLE OF THE ROSES**, see **ROSES**)

JAMAICA — See ATLANTIS, NEW

JASON ISLANDS

This is an archipelago that stretches northwest from West Falkland/Malvinas Island off the southern tip of South America. The islands were bought in 1970 by the late Leonard Hill. They were inhabited, at last report, by a lone caretaker (not counting the penguins and albatrosses — it is a bird sanctuary). Hill issued stamps and currency, and to capitalize on the recent publicity given that part of the world by the Anglo-Argentine war, his son was reported considering new issues in 1982.

JOLLY ROGER — See SHIPS

JONESTOWN

This was the notorious religious group from San Francisco, led by Rev. Jim Jones. Several hundred people settled in a remote area of Guyana, a former British colony on the northern coast of South America. They were in effect following a form of "vonu" strategy, intending to stay out of sight and mind of the authorities. However, relatives of some group members complained, and an American group including a California congressman flew into the community to investigate. As they were leaving, members of the group opened fire, killing the congressman, all as the television cameras rolled. Faced with an imminent crackdown, the members of the group killed each other or committed suicide.

This is the sort of thing that the Oceana group described below could have easily slipped into. In fact, many new-country projects have the potential to go this way, if fantasies are allowed to run rampant. This incident serves to underline the importance of choosing associates in a new-country venture carefully, especially if the plan is for the group to go off out of sight and mind of the outside world.

JUSTICE TOWNSHIP — See COMMON LAW

KAJ-LEMURIA, ATLANTIS — See ATLANTIS-KAJ-LEMURIA

KEELING ISLANDS — See **COCOS ISLANDS**

KIBRIS

Kibris is the Turkish name for Cyprus, the island in the Mediterranean that was invaded by Turkey in the 1970's. The part of the island held by the Turks was administered as a province of Turkey, but some enterprising model-country promoters issued postage stamps from an allegedly independent nation of Kibris. Apparently stamp collectors who weren't up on the details of the political situation on the island were taken in, and bought the stamps as if they were from an existing country. For the less scrupulous operators, there are a number of such situations around the world at any time that can be taken advantage of in this way.

As of this writing, moves toward creation of an actual independent Turkish nation of Cyprus were being undertaken.

KINGDOM — See name of kingdom

KIRKWOOD JR., JOE

This individual's activities probably attracted press notice in Los Angeles only because he had acquired some note as a movie actor. There have likely been a number of similar undertakings that have gone unremarked. The key to his plans was to build up some land in a shallow area of the Pacific Ocean in the vicinity of southern California. One method he tried was to sink a concrete barge in the area. Unfortunately, the water proved deeper than he had expected, and the barge sank without a trace.

Kirkwood denied persistent rumors of plans to build a gambling-oriented tourist resort (on the lines of the gambling ships that operated in the area in the 1930's, described below), and insisted that he intended to establish an abalone fishing station. After a brief spate of publicity, his activities seem to have sunk from public view as thoroughly as his barge. A lesson to be drawn from all this is not to overlook the engineering aspects of whatever approach you take to starting a new country.

KITE

This mouse-that-roared operation claims a district in central Cambridge, England, scheduled for redevelopment as a shopping center. Opposition to redevelopment was led by Arthur Sultan, styling himself Lord Mayor of Kite.

LAISSEZ FAIRE ENCLAVE

This 1970's project was promoted by a group whose newsletter ran to gloom-and-doom prophecies of imminent social collapse. While their economic views were of the hard-core free-enterprise type associated with right-wing activities, their life-style seemed to tend toward the sort of thing promoted in the *Whole Earth Catalog* or *Mother Earth News*, usually associated with the left wing. They proposed to set up a community in a remote area of the United States, to be operated in line with the economics of Adam Smith. Their scenario for the future, and their plans to cope with it, were not without some credibility; but they apparently lacked the resources to bring it off. Toward the end, they found their original site in Pennsylvania unsatisfactory, and were moving to Maine. The final newsletter was handwritten rather than typed, due to their goods still being in transit to Maine, and emphasized practical hints for pioneers more than the earlier economic analysis. They may have merged into the general back-to-the-land movement of the period.

LAND — See the name of the land

LAW, COMMON — See **COMMON LAW**

LEAGUE — See the name of the league

LEMURIA, ATLANTIS-KAJ — See **ATLANTIS-KAJ-LEMURIA**

LIBERTY WORLD HOMESTEADING ASSOCIATION — See **ANTARCTIC HOMESTEADING**

LIFE RESEARCH FOUNDATION, OCEAN — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

LOIA TA — See SPRATLY ISLANDS

LOMOND

This is reported to have been a principality proclaimed in Ireland sometime prior to 1970. No further information is available.

LUCONIA

This was a typical title-oriented model-country promotion based in Europe. A German named A.A.G. Arghen styled himself President of a reef northwest of the existing island nation of Brunei in the East Indies. Arghen had been convicted of illegal use of noble titles in West Germany, where the matter of who is allowed to insert "von" in front of his name is still taken very seriously.

LUNDY

This is an island off the coast of Devon, England. King (Martine Coles) Harman proclaimed his independence in 1925, and in 1931 issued coins denominated in "puffins." This resulted in a crackdown by the depression-harried British, who were in no mood to put up with anything that smacked of financial shenanigans. King Harman died in 1954.

M'SIMIBATI — See MSIMIBATI

MACHAIS SEAL ISLAND

This is an island off the coast of Maine and New Brunswick near the United States/Canadian border. A recent Hammond atlas labeled it as "sovereignty undetermined" between the two countries. This could be an opportunity for those wishing to follow the path of the Cherokee Nation operation described above. Barna B. Norton of Jonesport ME 04649 (telephone (207)497-5933) runs a boat service taking tourists from Maine out to the island. He reports that there is no landowner known, but that there is a lighthouse manned by Canadians (dating from 1832), and a Canadian game warden is on the island from June to September.

There are no other residents. The island is about 600 yards long by 300 yards wide. The last active conflict over the island is reported to have been during the American Civil War. Reportedly, no customs formalities are observed on trips to and from the island.

MALUTI

In December, 1981, an ad appeared in *Reason Magazine* (a libertarian-oriented publication) announcing that 250 applications were being accepted from potential settlers with $5,000 to settle a "small, tropical, wholly undeveloped South Pacific multi-cultural island country." Racial and religious restrictions were disavowed, and "escapists or fanatics" were discouraged. Resumes with photos were to be sent to Maluti, Box 94, Laguna Beach CA 92652.

MALVINAS/FALKLANDS ISLANDS — See **JASON ISLANDS**

MANN III, WALTER P. — See **COMMON LAW**

MAR, TIERRA DEL — See **ATLANTIS, NEW**

MARIE BYRD LAND — See **ARYANA**

MARKET DEFENSE LEAGUE, FREE — See **FREE MARKET DEFENSE LEAGUE**

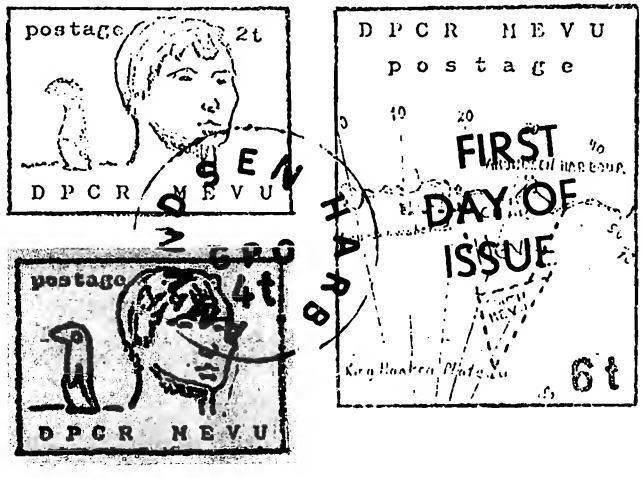
MEADS, MORAC-SONGHRATI — See **SPRATLY ISLANDS**

MEDIEVALISTS — See **CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, SOCIETY FOR**

MEVU, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF

This operation laid claim to a chunk of Antarctica in the 1970's. Inquiries are directed to the Trans-Antarctic Treaties Information Bureau, Box 405, N-4001, Stavanger, Norway. Another source gives the same address, except that the box and number were

replaced by Poste Restante (General Delivery). The currency is reported to be the tano, and its postage stamps, though copious in quantity, are said to be inferior in quality.



A first-day envelope from Mevu, with cancelled stamps (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

MOLLUCAS, REPUBLIC OF THE SOUTH

This is a former Dutch colony that was made part of Indonesia when that country became independent. The residents of the South Mollucas were unhappy at being put under the Indonesians, and a large number of them became refugees in Holland. In the 1950's, a Capt. Raymond Westerling of Great Britain, with Dutch backing, attempted to seize the area, but was crushed by Indonesia. In the 1970's, movements among the refugees staged a number of terrorist actions in Holland, trying to get what they claimed was promised Dutch help to free their homeland. At some point, postage stamps were issued.

Some new-country ventures have been based on the notion of forming an elite strike force, and seizing some land that appears to be lightly defended. The point of this incident is that such efforts

rarely get off the ground without great-power backing, and require such backing to be continued indefinitely if they are to succeed. Whenever the great power involved slacks off in its assistance a little, the venture collapses. This sort of thing shouldn't be tried unless (a) one is sure of ongoing great-power backing (practically impossible for most new-country projects) or (b) one has the muscle to prosecute the action without great-power backing, even against an opponent who can probably secure great-power support. In practice, this means getting weapons of mass destruction.

MONDCIVITAN

This is a world-citizenship organization, run (as so many of these utopian schemes seem to be) by Britons. Their address is 27 Delancy St., London NW1, United Kingdom.

MONTMARTRE

This is a model-country project with a literary and artistic orientation, named after the artists' quarter of Paris. This is also the area where the Paris Commune held out against the French government around 1870, so it can be considered a successor to that new country. The address is Embassy of Montmartre, c/o Barry Richmond, 310 E. 70th St., New York NY 10021.

MORAC-SONGHRATI-MEADS — See SPRATLY ISLANDS

MOUSE THAT ROARED — See BURKE, SHIRE OF

M'SIMIBATI

When the East African country of Tanganyika became independent at the start of 1960, a white settler (Latham Leslie-Moore) declared his island off the coast to be independent of Tanganyika. It isn't clear how long he held out.

MUSCONGUS ISLAND

This was a long-lived mouse-that-roared activity. In 1860, this island off the coast of Maine was accidentally left off official maps,

and thus wasn't allowed to vote in the presidential election of that year. They declared their independence, and were reported to have used firearms to warn off tax collectors (with what effect isn't clear). It was 1934 before they got around to formally rescinding their declaration.

NA GRIAMEL — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

NATION — See name of nation (e.g., for **ARYAN NATION**, see **ARYAN**)

NAVASSA

This is a one-square-mile island 32 miles west of Haiti, in the direction of Jamaica, whose coast consists of 60-foot cliffs. The United States Coast Guard claims responsibility for it, but David P. Billington declared himself king. There is also a constitution for the country, but it makes no provision for royalty.

This island was also to be used as a supply base for the Alice Shoal project discussed above.

NEW — See other name of country (e.g., for **NEW ATLANTIS**, see **ATLANTIS, NEW**)

1985, SECESSION — See **WORLD POWER FOUNDATION**

OCCUPATION OF MINERVA — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

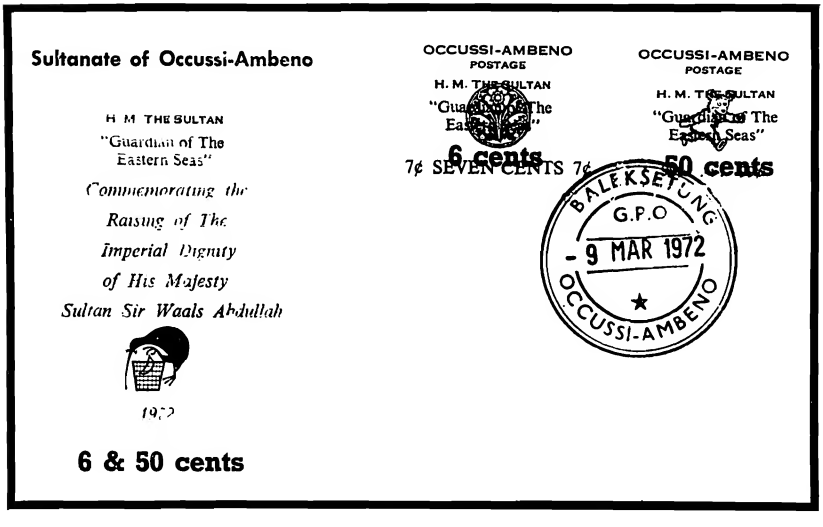
OCCUSSI-AMBENO, SULTANATE OF

This is one of the more active model-country ventures, claiming the island of Timor, which was incorporated by Indonesia in 1975. Bruce Henderson is the current promoter, and has been active since 1968, although claiming precedents back to 1868. The Sultan was Sir Wallis Abdullah I, succeeded by Michael Abdullah. It is reported to have been accidentally listed in a United States Department of State list of countries once, something of a high-water mark for new-country projects. An Occussi-Ambeno Agency is listed at Box 876, Auckland, New Zealand. Something called Markpress is also given as a contact, with addresses at Box

Sultanate of Occussi-Ambeno

Provincial Government of Quatair

The official seal from a letterhead from Quatair/Occussi-Ambeno (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).



A first-day envelope with cancelled stamps from the Sultanate of Occusi-Ambeno (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

21240, Auckland, New Zealand and Box 1619, Brisbane 4001, Australia.

OCEAN LIFE RESEARCH FOUNDATION — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

OCEANA

This is one of the more bizarre episodes in the annals of new countries, but one which serves to illustrate the psychological pitfalls into which promoters of such ventures can easily slip if they aren't careful. The organizers of this project will remain nameless here, in the interest of avoiding libel suits. What is known of the project was written by a disillusioned associate, and is rather unflattering. However, the general line rings true enough in light of what is known about other new-country projects.

The idea germinated in 1969, among an American college group oriented to the Objectivist writings of novelist Ayn Rand. Her philosophy emphasizes the pursuit of self-interest, and values bold, heroic action to advance it. The principal organizer was an ex-military type, much given to boasting of spectacular cloak-and-dagger exploits of doubtful authenticity. Throughout the life of the project, tales of his continuing involvement in such activity were regularly circulated. It was apparently through this sort of action that the weapons to defend the new nation were to be obtained, through seizure of nuclear-armed aircraft. This is reminiscent of later publicity about a different group allegedly planning to steal a nuclear submarine with a full complement of thermonuclear missles (though the latter group doesn't seem to have had any ambitions of nationhood). However weak the group's grasp on reality was in some areas, they must at least be given credit for appreciating that holding onto sovereignty would require control of weapons of mass destruction. If other groups would realize the same thing, they could avoid a lot of wasted effort, by either settling down to the business of making or otherwise getting such weapons, or (more plausibly) by redirecting their efforts into shipboard communities under flags of convenience or into clandestine wilderness communities — or into other forms of activity that do not require establishing traditional sovereignty.

As time went by, the resources of the Oceana group were increasingly directed into activities whose connection with the stated goal of establishing a new country were ever more tenuous. A complex war game was set up and played endlessly, supposedly to plan strategy for the coming libertarian struggle. A "boot camp" was planned, to train group members without military experience into a fighting force. The training was to include strikes against left-wing political groups active in the area at the time. Most members of the group took their leave of the venture before the camp.

From the point of view of the organizers, this can be viewed as an illustration of the problem of attracting too many chiefs, and not enough Indians. Because Oceana was essentially a zero-dollar operation, and thus couldn't offer immediate material incentives, it fell naturally (though inadvertently) into the trap of gaining recruits by (implicitly) offering them a full voice in the running of the venture. Thus a high proportion of people were attracted whose main interest was in endless fantasizing and dickering over details. When the time came for a commitment to be made to a particular course of action, with further debate out of order (i.e., the discipline of the boot camp), the idle bull-session types took their leave, and the organizers found out who was really ready to get serious.

From the point of view of the dropouts, however, the emphasis placed on the need for absolute discipline in the boot camp was ominous, and their reservations about participating are easy to understand. There are a number of paramilitary groups in the United States that conduct such clandestine camps from time to time, with goals that range from the overthrow of various Latin American governments, to preparation for what they see as a coming general social collapse. Most of them are not very savory outfits.

In the wake of the mass defections, the Oceana organizers apparently felt that some decisive action was in order to demonstrate that the group could still function. Since money was always short, it was decided to stage a holdup to raise funds. This is a time-honored tradition in political circles; for example, Karl Marx at one point turned to bank robbery near the Franco-

German border to finance his activities. Unfortunately for them, the Oceana group targeted a tavern where an off-duty deputy sheriff was having a drink. He easily foiled the amateurish stickup attempt. After serving short sentences, the members of the group apparently went their separate ways.

The lesson to be learned from all this is that the new-country idea can be heady stuff. If the organizers aren't steady people who know how to keep their feet on the ground, things can easily go off the deep end. As a participant in a new-country project, it's important to be sure you aren't falling into this kind of trap, and that the others in the project aren't doing so either. A project like this could very easily go the way of Jonestown, the religious community in the jungles of Guyana in which everyone died (by suicide and/or murder) when things started to unravel.

OCEANUS

Just as the Celestia venture discussed above laid claim to all of space, this operation laid claim to all of the oceans of the world. A constitution was published, with copyright dates of 1970 and 1976. The chief of state has the title of Admiral, the incumbent being Edward R. Welles. Flags were offered for sale at $10 each. Reference was made to the Pilgrim, a ship which served as the capital of Oceanus. The best address for Oceanus is the Oceanus Press Institute, Manset ME 04656. A consulate is also mentioned, at Bar Harbor ME 04609.

OLIVER, MICHAEL J.

This individual is not to be confused with J. Michael Oliver of the *New Banner* discussed above. The activities of Oliver are one of the most involved chapters in the new-country annals. A native of Lithuania born in 1929, his early training was in engineering. He is reported to have survived German prison camps in World War II, and then emigrated to the United States in 1947. He appears to have prospered at first as a coin dealer, and later as a real-estate developer in Nevada. His personal fortune seems to have provided most of the money behind the many new-country ventures in which he participated. His vision of a new country is one fairly similar to the United States, with emphasis on laissez-faire

economics. Middle class social and cultural values prevail in his *A New Constitution for a New Country* (see the Access chapter) and other writings — unlike (for example) Aurora, he sees no plantations with a few owners overseeing large numbers of field hands; nor does he envision a hideaway for the rich, like New Aragon; nor is he interested in a gambling-oriented tourist resort. A strong streak of explicit anti-Communism also runs throughout his activities.

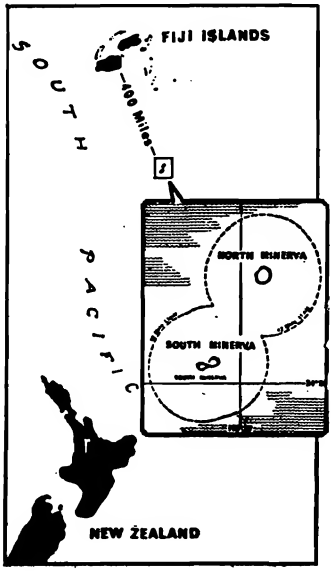
His first venture was aimed at the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Carribean. He accumulated a group of associates and sent one of them, Wallace Ward, to negotiate terms with the British authorities on the island. The negotiations appeared to be going smoothly. Then Oliver discovered that Ward was the author of *Advanced Concepts of Poker*, a book that advocates aggressive (some might say unscrupulous) methods for winning at poker at all costs, and that he was talking to the British in terms of a tourist-oriented gambling resort. Of course, the British were thinking in terms of a traditional freeport, rather than actually ceding sovereignty. It isn't clear if Ward understood this and was satisfied with those terms (keeping them from Oliver because he knew Oliver wouldn't be satisfied short of sovereignty), or if he had fallen into the usual trap of assuming that the exact status of the place was a "detail" that could be ironed out later.

About the same time, the British learned of Oliver's low-dollar plans, which cooled their interest considerably. The result was that Oliver expelled Ward from his association, although there were reports that other members of the group got together with Ward to try and press the negotiations on the tourist/gambling basis, using Ward's rapport with the British. At least one such associate said he had been attracted to Oliver by promises that he would be set up in a lucrative coin business as an associate of Oliver, but became disenchanted when this help did not materialize. However, all negotiations for the Turks and Caicos appear to have fizzled out in the end.

Oliver's attention then turned to the New Hebrides, a chain of islands in the southwest Pacific. At the time, the islands were ruled as a colony by Britain and France jointly, under an arrangement known internationally as "condominium," and locally as "pan-

demonium." It seems to have been the only one of its kind in the world. This apparently led Oliver to believe the situation was promising for obtaining independent sovereignty over some part of the island. The negotiations went nowhere, and eventually he moved on. However, like General MacArthur in the nearby Philippines a third of a century earlier, he was fated to return for what was to be perhaps his finest hour.

The next target was the Minerva Reefs, 260 miles northeast of the Kingdom of Tonga. They were named after a ship that discovered them the hard way (by running aground on them), and from that time until Oliver arrived on the scene, they were regarded mainly as a hazard to navigation. In May of 1972, a dredging ship hired in Australia for $10,000 a week began filling in the two reefs with sand. The idea was to build up land 8 feet above the high water mark at a rate of 5 days per acre, until 15 acres (evenly divided between the two atolls that composed the reef) had been built up. Each acre was reported to require 15,000 cubic yards



Map showing the location of the Minerva Islands.

of sand. Ultimately, 2,500 acres were to be built up in that manner, 2,000 for residential development and 500 for commercial uses. The existence of the intitial 15 acres was to be used to convince additional investors to finance the remaining 2,485 acres. The dredging apparently continued for almost half a year, exhausting the approximately $200,000 capital available. The independence of the Republic of Minerva was duly proclaimed, but investors showed little interest.

This certainly could be not be said of the half-dozen neighboring island countries, who expressed considerable unhappiness with the precedent that the venture would set if allowed to succeed. The King of Tonga moved quickly, dropping a box of emergency supplies on some of the first land to be built up over the high water mark on February 23, 1972. The box of supplies was labeled "supplied and maintained by the government of Tonga." The heads of the governments of the Cook Islands and of the Fiji islands expressed strong support for this action.

When the initial capital ran out without new investment coming forward, the dredge returned to Australia. His Tongan Majesty then returned to the reefs with the Royal Band and a gang of convicts for labor. They planted a Tongan flag, played the Tongan national anthem, and claimed the land for the Kingdom. Then they went home. Apparently, the winds and tides did their inexorable work, and the land eventually sank beneath the waves once more.

The most lasting part of this venture has been the coins that were minted as a promotional and fund-raising activity. They are silver, with a figure of the Greek goddess Minerva. Her face is sintered onto the coin in gold. This bimetallic standard was to have been the basis of the Minervan currency. The coins were minted by the Letcher Mint, Box 107, Lancaster CA 93535. Another contact for the Minerva project was Maurice C. (Bud) Davis, Box 201, Orange Plaza Station, Orange CA 92666. Because Oliver disclaimed any personal political ambition, he installed Davis as President of the Republic of Minerva. Michael J. Oliver's address is (or was) Box 485, Carson City NV 89701. His telephone was listed as (702)882-2483. At one time, Box 700, Carson City NV

The silver coin of the Republic of Minerva, with gold face sintered on.

89701 was listed as the address of the Phoenix Foundation (see below in this entry).

This episode illustrates once again the folly of attempting to exercise sovereignty over some land — even land that you have created yourself — without the muscle to make it stick. This point was not entirely lost on at least one of Oliver's associates, as we shall see. The patience of Oliver's associates became exhausted at about the same time as his bank account. In the wake of the Tongan seizure of the reefs, Oliver announced that a shadowy figure had been engaged to negotiate with the Tongans. President Davis was apparently dissatisfied with these turns of events, and wound up being dismissed by Oliver as a "dictator." In turn, Davis said of Oliver that his "pupose was to sell books rather than to start a new country," referring to Oliver's book *A New Constitution for a New Country*. Davis then turned his attention to the Palmyra project (described below).

Further reflecting dissention, a circular was sent out by someone styling himself "Major Traver" (a Frank Travers was associated with Operation Atlantis at one point). This called for volunteers to return to the reefs for a 90-day "occupation." Participants were to be provided with arms and supplies. A World War II Liberty ship and a similar-vintage landing craft (pictured in the circular) were

to be employed. The group was to work on building up and protecting the land from the elements, when not engaged in repelling the Tongans or any other comers. At the end of the 90 days, the volunteers would divide up the land among themselves. Nothing beyond the circulars was ever heard of this activity. In any case, it would have taken more than a few war-surplus rifles to hold off the Tongans, since they could (if necessary) call on the other five island states in the area who supported them for assistance. The great powers would also have been glad to help out, if necessary, I'm sure: they have a number of island dependencies in the area, and the last thing they want is a precedent for secession. The idea of each flyspeck island and reef being an independent country would present them with a nightmare of a situation to control.

From this point onward, Oliver adopted a policy of working with minorities in existing nations. He would approach the dissidents — encouraging their secessionist inclinations, and urging that a constitution be adopted that was vigorously pro-free-enterprise. This, he indicated, would make the place attractive for outside investors, whom he implied he had the contacts to produce. Such dissidents usually had no reason not to sign off on such constitutions. Naturally, if and when they ever achieved effective sovereignty over their territory, the great powers would be only happy to deal with them, and could easily outbid (with grants-in-aid, favored trade status, weapons, and so on) any private investors. But Oliver seemed unwilling or unable to face such facts, and of course the dissident groups he dealt with had no reason to raise the subject. For their part, the dissidents seemed unwilling or unable to realize that Oliver was a lone operator, and couldn't produce any significant investment beyond his own. But then, if they were only making a mouse-that-roared gesture to get a better deal from the existing authorities (like Anguilla discussed above), this wasn't a problem for them.

In the case of Abaco, there may have been a significant element of this mouse-that-roared strategy. Abaco is a group of two islands in the Bahamas chain. The dissidents proclaimed their independence, and happily accepted Oliver's overtures. Eventually, he and his associates were prohibited to enter the Bahamas (including

Abaco) by the Bahamian authorities in Nassau. Eventually, Abaco, Nassau and London came to some sort of terms, and interest in secession waned. There were rumored to be a half million "Hands Off Abaco" bumper stickers in a warehouse in southern Florida in the wake of this project. From time to time, there continued to be small rumblings of discontent in Abaco, perhaps out of a desire to keep the pot boiling in case the Abaconians need to play another card in their dealings with the central authorities. However, there has been no report of overt activity recently.

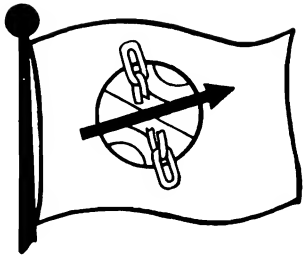
At the same time, Oliver was announcing plans for a shipboard community on board a luxury liner. This seems to me to be the soundest proposition he has put forward; but he doesn't appear to have followed up on it.

Meanwhile, back in the New Hebrides, a scenario similar to Abaco was developing as the day approached for independence from the British and French. The capital, Vila, is located among the southern, smaller islands of the chain. Most of the people around there are English speaking, and were governed by the British colonial apparatus. On the large, northern island of Espiritu Santo, most of the people are French-speaking, and outnumbered by the southerners. Most of the white settlers in the New Hebrides are of French extraction, and live on the northern island, which is the richest part of the archipelago. Espiritu Santo was the setting used by James A. Michener for his book *Tales of the South Pacific*, the basis of the musical *South Pacific*, and the system of French-owned plantations has changed little since then. Despite this French orientation, the leader of the northerners was an English-speaking Eurasian heavy-equipment operator born in 1923 named Jimmy Moly Stevens ("Moly" is a local honorific), and some of the people there venerate Prince Philip of England. The emphasis on these aspects may have been a base-broadening exercise designed to play down the key role of the French planters, whose holdings the dominant Vanuaaku Party (mainly blacks educated by Scottish Presbyterian missionaries) promised to expropriate after independence. They called their secessionist movement Na-Griamel, after a staple local food plant, and produced a flag based on its design.

At this point, Oliver had recouped his finances somewhat after Minerva, and had brought together a new group of supporters under the aegis of the Phoenix Foundation (an appropriate name, considering the up-and-down nature of his ventures). This was a tax-free outfit based in Holland, whose supporters included a number of persons prominent in the Libertarian Party in the United States, a group that was polling around 1% of the vote in presidential elections in the period from 1972 to 1980. These included the Party's 1972 Presidential candidate John Hospers, a professor of philosophy at the University of Southern California. Also affiliated with the Phoenix Foundation was Harry D. Schulz, a noted gloom-and-doom economic commentator. Schulz would have certainly tended to give the group financial credibility, though it is not clear whether he ever provided any significant amount of capital. Another trustee was Nathaniel Branden, a psychologist and the principal protege of Ayn Rand until the 1960's. Less publicized, a commodities broker with a checkered past was involved, perhaps as a source of financing. However, this individual spent most of the critical period in prison in connection with some alleged commodities swindle.

Na-Griamel issued a constitution with the clear Oliver imprint, and Stevens was flown to the United States to make an appeal to the United Nations, which refused to recognize him. There were rumors about the starting of a national airline, and about the establishment of an international communications link via satellite. After a while, however, the sound and fury subsided, some kind of accomodation apparently having been reached with the authorities in Vila, London and Paris.

As the date for independence (July 30, 1980) drew near, things flared up again. In March it was reported that the secessionists had expelled sympathizers with the central administration. The French were somewhat implicated in all this, in that they had supported some kind of limited autonomy for the northern islands, to protect the position of their planters. However, once things came to a head, they had little choice but to support the central government. The rebels put a radio station into operation, and gold coins and passports were issued. Thier numbers were put at 200 to 800 (there are 15,000 natives on Espiritu Santo, and 100,000 natives in the



One of Mike Oliver's "New Country" flags (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

New Hebrides altogether). On May 28, the separatist state of Vemerana was proclaimed on Espiritu Santo, and there was also a revolt on the island of Tana 300 miles to the southwest. The Tana uprising was reported to have been quickly crushed.

Oliver claimed credit for having organized the revolt, on the basis of having been in touch with Stevens for ten years (since his earlier, abortive New Hebrides venture), but admitted that he had not had contact since the revolt actually began. Up until then, he is reported to have spent $130,000 on medical supplies and for transportation of Stevens and his people to the United States (for consultations and diplomatic efforts). The United States government, when the British asked for moral support, obliged by saying that they would see to it that Oliver and his people did not violate the United States neutrality laws. Stevens, meanwhile, announced elections on Espiritu Santo for July 20, ten days before independence. The British sent military "advisors" to the islands, and even the French authorities hinted at "military intervention." In June, the British sent in a commando unit of 250 Royal Marines, and the French chipped in riot police with submachine guns and rifles. At least one member of the secessionist "John Frum" movement was killed by a shotgun blast. This movement is a cargo cult, which believes that an American soldier of that name from World War II is the Messiah, and will return with refrigerators, radios, etc., for all.

Meanwhile, the Phoenix Foundation back in Holland put out an appeal for funds, listing its own address (Box 5085, 1007 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and that of the Vemerana Development Corporation Trust (Box 8666, Panama 5, Republic of Panama). Copies of the Vemerana (sometimes spelled Vemarana) constitution were also offered for sale for $12. This is a book, *Blueprint for a New Nation*, published by a vanity press in New York, and authored by a Dutch economist born in 1946. He has been a leading promoter of gold-backed currency, and serves as Secretary of the Phoenix Foundation.

In September of 1980, the Phoenix Foundation put out another newsletter reporting the defeat of the Vemerana movement, and the capture of its leaders. Apparently the final blows were struck by troops from nearby Papua-New Guinea, whose aid was requested by the central government in Vila. During the Vemerana affair, the Foundation had split with Oliver, apparently because he was inclined to take a hard line and clandestinely supply them with arms, while the other Foundation principals were prepared only to urge some form of investment "as soon as there is no further military threat" (this written before the collapse of Vemerana). This was like a bank saying they would lend you money you needed, as soon as you could prove you didn't need it any more.

At this time, the Foundation also reported contact with independence minded people on the Isle of Man, which presently enjoys a semi-autonomous status within the United Kingdom. They had also been in touch with people in the Azores Islands of Portugal who had been interested in independence around the time that the Portuguese dictator Salazar died, when Portugal began drifting rapidly to the political left. As that country stabilized, however, the independence fever cooled. An FLA organization headed by one Dr. Alameida was reported to be still active in a peaceful way, along with its youth movement MNA. The newsletter ends with a plea for support for South Africa, and for $75 contributions to the Foundation.

The bottom line on the whole New Hebrides affair seems to be that it paralleled the Rhodesian situation in Africa in the 1960's. At that time, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland became the independent nation of Zambia. Southern Rhodesia, which held

most of the white planters and produced most of the wealth of the Federation, declared its independence. The whites held on for a dozen years. The planters in Espiritu Santo and their supporters are far less numerous than the white Rhodesians, and the great powers and the neighboring countries (aware of the precedent) are far more determined that there should not be another Rhodesia, so the movement was stillborn. The new-country promoters of the Phoenix Foundation (including Michael J. Oliver) were merely a footnote, and had no real influence in affairs. However, they were attractive to the media (especially in the United States, since Oliver and his people were the only Americans involved). One American who has closely followed the operation (Sarah Foster, speaking at the Freeland Conference mentioned in the Access chapter) cited a lack of familiarity with the nuances of the local situation (who was lunching with whom, etc.) as a reason for the new country's failure. That seems to be an understatement: knowledge of the local situation would have made it obvious that there was no significant role to be played by any libertarian new-country promoters with no more than one or two hundred thousand dollars to play with.

Meanwhile, the central government, going under the name of Vanuatu, has apparently found significant acceptance as a tax haven, even attracting the astute operators of Hong Kong. This points up the irrelevance of espoused libertarian principles to success in this sort of operation. The principle seems to be "better a scoundrel than a fool." People would rather deal with a scoundrel on whose firm grasp on his own self-interest they feel they can rely, than with (what they see as) a bunch of starry-eyed idealists who may go off the deep end at any moment on some Quixotic quest.

OPERATION ATLANTIS — See **ATLANTIS, OPERATION**

OUTBACK, GREAT AUSTRALIAN — See **BURKE, SHIRE OF**

OUTER BALDONIA — See **BALDONIA, OUTER**

PACIFIC CHANNEL ISLANDS

In March of 1983, an individual began promoting a movement

for the Channel Islands off the California coast to secede from the United States. These include Catalina Island (mostly a resort and private nature preserve) and San Clemente Island (mainly used for gunnery practice by the United States Navy), as well as a number of islands to the north. A series of 12 monthly newsletters was planned, culminating with the circulation of a declaration of independence.

The new country was to be based on libertarian principles, with the emphasis on private property and sound currency. The handling of such problems as the roads, police protection and the poor was covered. Privately, the promoter cited Mexican claims to the islands (based on the treaties made by the United States with Mexico in which California was ceded, treaties whose language admits of ambiguous interpretations on the subject of the islands). These claims were to be used to call into question the legitimacy of United States control.

The return address on the newsletters was Box 2373, Avalon, CA 90704. Avalon is the principal town in the islands, on Catalina Island. The mailing permit used for the newsletters, however, was issued from Sunset Beach on the California mainland, meaning that the newsletters were mailed from there.

PALMYRA

In 1973 in the wake of the loss of Minerva, and his subsequent break with Michael J. Oliver, Morris C. (Bud) Davis (erstwhile President of Minerva) turned his attention to Palmyra. This is an unpopulated island in the Hawaiian chain, but one which was excluded from the state of Hawaii and left under the direct control of the United States Department of the Interior. The entire island is under the management of a single owning group. Davis gave the reason for the island's exclusion as the opposition of the owner (who was not without political clout) to statehood for Hawaii.

The plan was to obtain loans from interested parties of about $5,000 each to buy the island. Then settlers would move onto the island, and hold a referendum on applying for commonwealth status under the United States, the status presently held by Puerto Rico. "Then," said Davis, "from a commonwealth status to

complete independence is not beyond the realm of possibility." This sounds like more whistling past the graveyard of the sovereignty hurdle.

The addresses are given of the Palmyra Development Company, Box 201, Orange Plaza Station, Orange CA 92666, and of the American Building Center, 3626 E. Cerritos (Spring St.), Los Alamitos CA (telephone 430-7581).

PARIS COMMUNE

Around 1870, France under Napoleon III was being systematically crushed by Prussian armies in the Franco-Prussian war. As most Frenchmen of military age wound up in Prussian prison camps, the grip of the French government became inadequate even to control the capital. In the Bohemian quarter of Montmartre, leftist radicals barricaded the streets and proclaimed an egalitarian social order. It was more than a year before things could be brought under control by the French authorities. In the meantime, the Paris Commune had become firmly established in the mythology of leftist utopianism, and has served as the inspiration for a number of international communities in the century since then.

At last report, there was a watch factory in the French provinces that was seized by its employees when its imminent closing was announced. Its owners were apparently just as happy to have an excuse not to give the employees the heavy severance payments French law requires. The operation was surviving by drawing down its inventories of raw materials, refusing to pay its utility bills (for political reasons, the French government was reluctant to cut them off), and inviting union leaders and others with leftist sympathies to tour the plant and buy the watches at rather high prices. The spirit of 1870 in Paris was frequently invoked.

PASHA, WHITE — See WHITE PASHA

PATAGONIA, KINGDOM OF ARAUCANIA AND — See ARAUCANIA AND PATAGONIA, KINGDOM OF

PENDRAGON

In July of 1982, there were reports of a bizarre incident in Marin County near San Francisco. A Mark Richards is said to have had a scheme for mounting a giant laser on a peak in the county, establishing a command post in a nearby castle, and seceding from the United States as a kingdom. The whole affair came to light when someone associated with the venture was murdered. The reports of this scheme were countered by assertions that a movie on that theme was merely being made. Whether the actual secession reports were a publicity stunt for the movie, or whether the movie was a cover story for the actual secession, is not clear. It is also highly doubtful that the sort of laser described could have been built and operated as planned. In any case, such a laser would be inadequate to hold off the United States, which could merely target it with as many guided missles at once as necessary to give the laser too little time to home in on and blast each one. Weapons of mass destruction planted in various key cities would have been needed to deter the United States from counterattacking.

The significance (if any) of naming the country with King Arthur's dynastic name is not clear.

PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF MEVU, DEMOCRATIC — See MEVU

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF QUAY — See QUAY

PHOENIX FOUNDATION — See OLIVER, MICHAEL J.

"PIRATE" RADIO BROADCASTING — See SHIPS

PITCAIRN ISLAND

In the late 18th Century, the crew of the British ship *HMS Bounty* mutinied in the South Pacific. The story is too well known to merit repeating in detail here, but the mutineers eventually picked up women in Polynesia, and settled with them on previously-uninhabited Pitcairn Island. There was considerable dissension and violence among the mutineers on the island, which

should serve as a caution to new-country organizers, especially those taking the "vonu" route in which the outside world is to be ignorant of the existence of the group. Nevertheless, the group survived, and was discovered by the British in the 19th Century.

The island now depends on supply ships for its daily necessities, and the young people are mostly moving away as soon as they are of age. The problem of motivating the next generations is a perennial problem for new-country organizers. The old-order Amish settlers in Pennsylvania have had about the best record in this respect, losing around one child in five to the outside world, although the rising cost of the farmland needed to maintain the Amish way of life is putting additional pressure on new generations to adopt another way of life.

POWER FOUNDATION, WORLD — See **WORLD POWER FOUNDATION**

PRINCIPALITY — See name of principality

PROVINCE, HUTT RIVER — See **HUTT RIVER**

QUAY, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF

This republic claims the Maria Theresa and Ernest Legouve reefs in the Pacific, about a thousand miles east of New Zealand. Apparently, these reefs have not been formally claimed by New Zealand. However, New Zealand claims all of the significant islands in the area, and would likely treat any activitiy there as if it were New Zealand territory. Michael Kennedy is the Premier, and P.C. Searls is the consul-general in the United States. English is the first language of Quay, and German is the second language. The address is PDR Quay, Box 3035, Hialeah FL 33013.

RANDANIA, EMPIRE OF

This kingdom was reported in 1970. In 1966, Randy J. Dicks declared his home in Canfield OH (all 600 square feet of it) to be the Kingdom of Randania, and himself to be King Randy I. Later, he decided to promote himself to Emperor. Passports and stamps were declared to be the national industry. He is an advocate of monarchy as the ideal political system worldwide.

REALM — See name of realm (e.g., for **REALM OF REDONDA**, see **REDONDA, REALM OF**)

REDONDA, REALM OF

This country claims an island held by the country of Antigua in the Carribean, and has been of some note in the literary world. The first king was the noted fantasist Matthew Phillips Shiel, who styled himself King Felipe. He claimed his father was crowned by the Bishop of Antigua; no proof of this is known. The last undisputed king was Juan I (formerly John Gawsworth). There are currently six claimants to the throne in the United Kingdom and Canada. The country was described in a novel by Laurence Durrell, *Kingdom of Plaice.* On his accession, King Juan received a congratulatory letter from Burke's Peerage, the definitive British register of nobility. Marvin Kitman, a noted political satirist in the United States, currently styles himself President. His address is Box 1461, Castle Point Station, Hoboken NJ 07030.

REFAIM, WEST

Stamps of this country (also known as Cooland) appeared, but no location had been identified as of 1970.

REPUBLIC — See name of republic

RESEARCH FOUNDATION, OCEAN LIFE — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

RHINELAND REPUBLIC

This country was proclaimed in the French town of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1923 by a Dr. Dorten. It was apparently prompted by the unusual status of the Franco-German border area under the terms of the Versailles Treaty ending World War I.

RINGWORLD COMPANY

This project takes its name from the enormous manufactured habitat in Larry Niven's science fiction novel of the same name. The stated goal is the construction of an artificial space colony in

Earth orbit. Peter A. Turcotte styles himself Planner, and solicits $4 memberships. Members are asked to identify any skills they have that might be useful, and are asked to subscribe for shares in the company. There is a company charter also published. In early 1981 the address was given as Ringworld Company, Box 78, Mt. Eden CA 94557.

RIVER PROVINCE, HUTT — See **HUTT RIVER**

ROARED, MOUSE THAT — See **BURKE, SHIRE OF**

ROCKALL

This is a group of rocks off the coast of Scotland. Hans Busk (1815-1882) "annexed" them from his yacht. This is an early example of a model-country project along the lines of Atland or Outer Baldonia, described above. He did not follow up his claim. Later, Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom is said to have claimed Rockall for her country in a secret ceremony on the island in 1959.

ROGER, JOLLY — See **SHIPS**

ROI, ILE

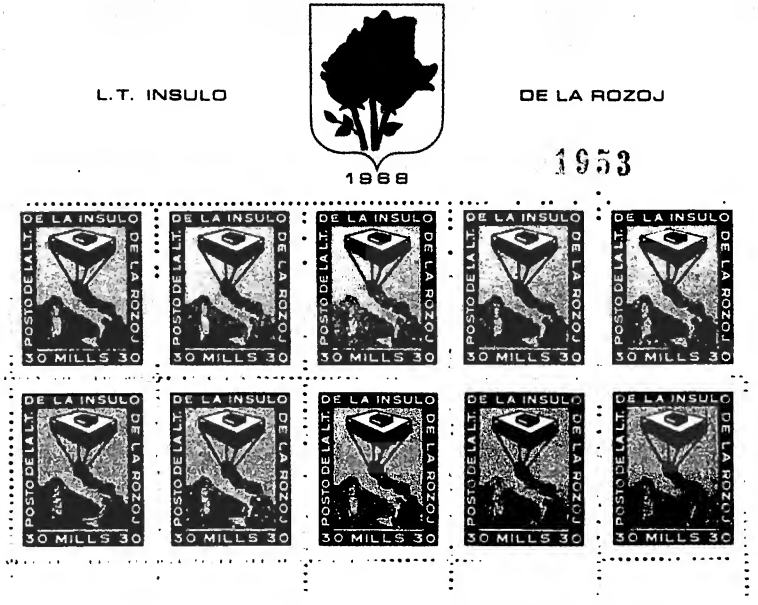
This is yet another monarchist French new-country promotion. It is an island off the coast of France, of which Pierre Vion proclaimed himself "Roi de l'Ile" ("King of the Island").

ROSES, ISLE OF THE

Giorgio Rosa was (or is) a professor of engineering in Bologna, Italy. In the early 1960's, he built a tower in the Adriatic Sea, in water less than 20 feet deep, about 8 miles off the coast of the Italian city of Rimini. This first tower was wrecked by a storm on February 13, 1965. A new one was built, with an area of about 4,000 square feet. It had a bar, a restaurant, a post office, a bank and a store, all surrounded by a promenade. The Italian authorities took no notice (since they only claimed 3 miles from shore as their territorial waters) until May 1, 1968, when the

platform was declared to be an independent republic, whose official language was the artificial one Esperanto. The Italians invaded 55 days later, speaking vaguely of such things as "national security, illegality, tax avoidance, maritime obstruction and pornography." In the spring of 1969, Italian Navy frogmen dynamited the structure. At last report, Rosa did not plan to try again, saying darkly that "This country is all Mafia."

Mafia or not, this illustrates the extent to which existing countries are willing to brush aside written law if they think a new-country project has the potential to seriously inconvenience them. Remember, this project happened at the height of the "pirate" radio ship era in the North Sea (described below), and the Italians were apparently afraid of a duplicate situation in the Adriatic.



A sheet of ten stamps from the Isle of the Roses, with an official symbol above (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

RUBEZAHLIA

In 1970, there was a report of a country by this name having been proclaimed in the Bohemia region of Europe at some time in the past.

S.C.A. — See CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, SOCIETY FOR

SAHARA, EMPIRE OF THE

This is another instance of a soldier of fortune carving out a private empire, in the last days when the great powers weren't fully able to control all points in the world. Jacques le Baudy was the son of a sugar millionaire, and in 1903 he proclaimed himself Jacques I. He landed at Troja in North Africa, and bribed the Berbers to accept him as Emperor. After waging several campaigns, he was displaced by the Spanish in 1906 as they consolidated the Spanish Sahara. He tried to get the International Court of Justice at The Hague to rule in his favor, without success. He made appeals for support in New York in 1906. Eventually, he was said to have gone mad, and was killed by his wife in 1919.

SAINTS, SOCIETY OF

This is another survivalist-oriented operation in the Pacific Northwest. It advertised, "GET OUT NOW. Identity Security Survival Community. Personal Commitment, Territorial Imperative, C.B.R. Safe, Sanctuary Volunteer Programme, details $5 ; K.D. Gilbert, Society of Saints, Box 1474, Post Falls ID 83854. (208)773-3637."

SALTEE ISLANDS

These are islands off the coast of County Wexford in Ireland. They total 308 acres, with three residents. Michael Neale styles himself Prince. The address is c/o Eamon Doyle, Kilmore Quay, County Wexford, Ireland.

SAROFU, PRINCIPALITY OF

This operation claims an area near the Phoenix Islands in the South Pacific. The head is HRH Prince Musarol.

SCA — See CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, SOCIETY FOR

SCIENCE, ISLAND FOR

This project is promoted by Neal P. Ruzic. The address is Box 527, Beverly Shores IN 46301. The latest report is from April, 1981. It is located in Little Stirrup Cay, at the northwest end of the Berry Island Chain in the Bahamas, halfway between Freeport and Nassau in that nation. It was being promoted as a "time-share" resort venture, with a target of 50 units (although Ruzic admits that 30 or 40 might be a more likely figure in the end). Any scientific facilities are to await sufficient interest. The last report doesn't mention any plans for outright independence, such as had been rumored previously. It was not clear whether this was merely a matter of prudent silence, or whether such goals had been abandoned altogether.

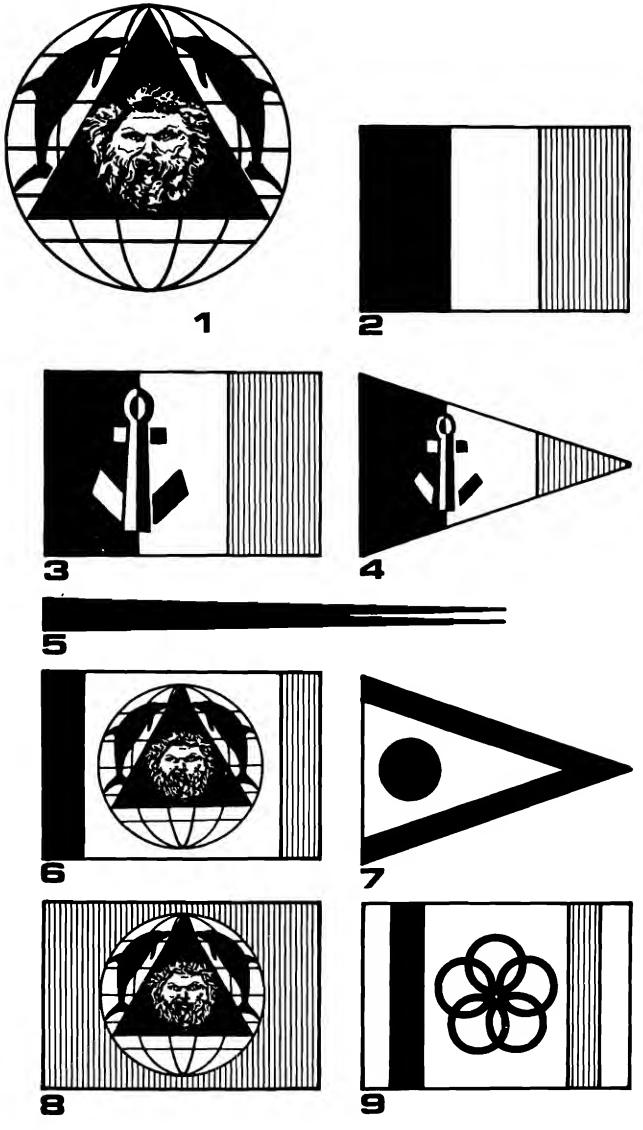
SEA, DOMINION OF THE

Theron P. Elliot is listed as the Minister of State of this project. An embassy is listed at 451 Carrier St. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49505. This sounds similar to Oceanus described above, which claims all of the oceans of the world as its territory.

SEAL ISLAND, MACHIAS — See MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND

SEALAND

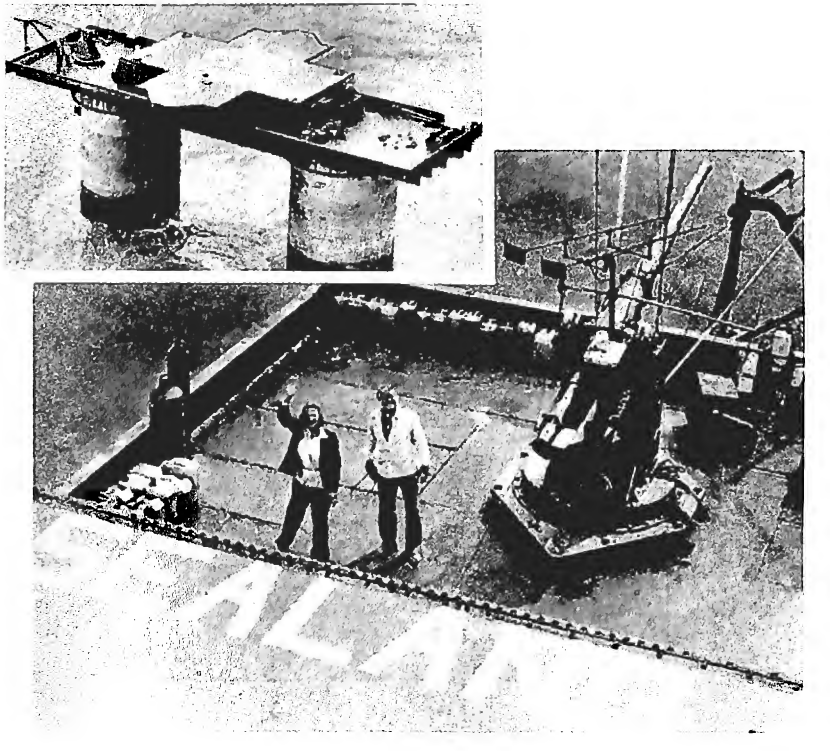
This principality is perhaps the most successful new-country venture known (depending on just how "new country" and "success" are defined; for example, the radio and gambling ships described below were far more profitable). Paddy Roy Bates was one of the most successful "pirate" radio operators off England, as described below. At the end of that era, in 1966, he moved into one of the abandoned World-War-II vintage anti-aircraft towers off the British coast. This particular tower (Rough's Tower, comprising about 560 square feet) is seven miles off the Essex coast, opposite the mouth of the River Orwell (in the very teeth of Big Brother, as it were). It had never been used for broadcasting,



Flags of The Dominion of the Sea, from **The Flag Bulletin,** *XIII:2 (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).*

although it had been occupied by broadcasters to preclude its use by competitors.

On September 2, 1967, he proclaimed his independence, styling himself Prince Roy, and issued passports, coins and stamps. By 1978, he was reported to have sold 200 passports. The Sealand currency is pegged to the United States dollar. A $500 gold dubloon (18 ct.) was minted, and a $25 silver coin, each showing the profile of Prince Roy. A set of stamps depicting famous seamen was $15 a set, and sets showing ships, Prince Roy and his wife Queen Joan (they also have two grown children), and the Sealand coat of arms were $5.50 a set. The above prices were quoted in 1981.



Princess Joan and Prince Roy at Sealand.

Coins from Sealand (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

A variety of stamps from Sealand.

This whole activity has been extremely costly, having run up bills of over a million pounds. The principal expenses appear to be the logistics of keeping the tower supplied and guarded around the clock, and legal fees. These later would have been minimal if he had been content to just occupy the tower. But in order to push a test of Sealand's independence, he fired warning shots at a boatload of repairmen working on a buoy near the tower. After his warning shots, the British obliged him by charging him with unlawful possession and discharge of a firearm. However, Essex Assize Court Justice Chapman ruled that the tower was outside his jurisdiction. This is the principle basis for Sealand's claims to be generally recognized as independent. During the proceedings, the British authorities had been the object of considerable ridicule in the press, and they elected not to pursue the matter further, as long as there were no more incidents like that with the buoy repair boat.

Prince Roy has been trying to get some investors to put money into Sealand since the beginning, so far without success. One group headed by a German businessman visited the tower during negotiations, and promptly seized it, putting Roy's son Michael ashore. Roy got a helicopter and rounded up some men, and staged a predawn raid that took the invaders by surprise. Most of them were treated as prisoners of war under the Geneva

The Royal Seal of Sealand, from a letterhead (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

Convention; and since the war was over as of the recapture of the tower, they were repatriated. The German businessman, however, had accepted Sealand citizenship and had presented a Sealand passport on entering the tower. Therefore, he was found guilty of treason, and was held in lieu of a payment of a fine (75,000 Deutschmarks). Seven weeks later, however, he was released without any fine having been paid. During this incident, the German government appealed to the British government for help, but the British Foreign Office merely cited the court decision that the tower was beyond British jurisdiction, thus further butressing Roy's claim to recognition of his independence.

Roy claims to have turned down offers to buy him out over the years, both by the British authorities and by other investors. By 1981, Roy won a legal fight to force the British Post Office to rent him a post-office box. The address is Sealand, Box 3, Felixstowe, Suffolk, England. He was also to be allowed to get a marine telephone.

In an official precis of Sealand history (issued along with a constitution adopting the British Common Law, except as specifically modified), the uniqueness of Sealand is repeatedly emphasized. This is apparently designed to minimize fears that Roy's action might set a precedent for others. Such fears are, of course, the main interest of the established countries in matters of this kind — Prince Roy's tower itself is hardly a threat. To help insure that its uniqueness continues, the British blew up a nearby tower.

SEBIS-DERANG, SULTANATE OF

This East Indian area is said to have issued stamps around 1869, but there is no other record of its existence.

SECESSION 1985 — See WORLD POWER FOUNDATION

SEDANG, KINGDOM OF

In 1885, Marie David Mayrena, a French soldier of fortune, married the daughter of a tribal chief in a remote part of Indochina, and was elected king by the tribal council. He was dethroned in 1889 while in Europe. He died in 1890 in Malaya. This

is one more example of what was possible when the great powers hadn't yet consolidated their grip on remote parts of the world.

SERVICE AUTHORITY, WORLD — See **WORLD SERVICE AUTHORITY**

SHASHILAND, KINGDOM OF

This operation claims the Limpopo Islands in Africa, where South Africa, Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) and Botswana come together. Its claims are now said to be in the courts of those three countries, an example of the problems involved in claiming territory already claimed by several existing states. The contact address is W.B. Coetzer, Box 5958, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, telephone 33-8956.

SHIPS

We now come to a class of activities that may not be nations, in the strict sense of the term. However, they provide a scope of action normally associated with sovereign entities. The ships involved are typically stationed just outside territorial waters near population centers on land. Currently, the United States and other major Western naval powers claim only three nautical miles as their territorial limit, in order to retain the greatest freedom for their navies to operate near other countries. However, they have indicated that they are prepared to extend that to 12 miles if other nations will cut back on their claims of up to 200 or even 1200 miles. Most countries now claim a 12 mile limit for general purposes, with extended limits regarding such activities as oil drilling and fishing. Typically, the ships are registered under the flags of small nations that specialize in issuing such registrations with a minimum of strings attached, such as Panama and Liberia.

The direct ancestors of these activities (in the modern era) were the rum runners of the (alcohol) Prohibition era in the United States. Mother ships would lie just outside territorial waters laden with liquor. On foggy nights, small boats would rendezvous with the mother ships, and shuttle the goods to the shore. These activities continue to the present day. Marijuana and other drugs are run into the southern United States from Latin American

mother ships. Cigarettes are run into Italy from the Mediterranean. And no doubt many other commodities are smuggled into other countries in this manner.

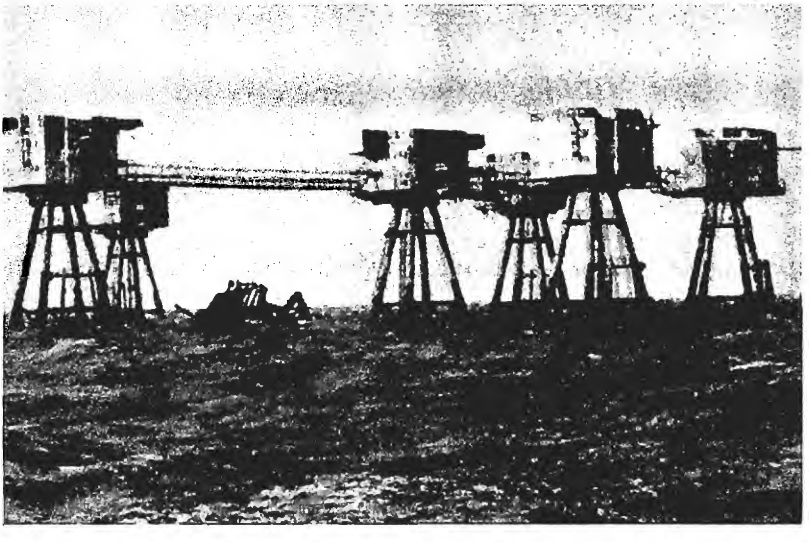
With the end of Prohibition, the operators of the liquor trade turned their attention to gambling. For a time, the coast of southern California was virtually wide open to gambling, thanks to a corrupt constabulary. But then Earl Warren (later to be governor of California and then Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, but at the time only an ambitious district attorney) decided to advance his career by declaring war on the gambling interests. The operators responded by moving the casinos onto ships keeping the old mother-ship stations off the coast. The first reaction of Warren was just to go out and break up the casinos anyway, never mind that his lawful authority ended at the territorial limit. This is yet another caution to new-country organizers not to place overmuch faith in the written law.

However, the operators then went into Federal court, and forced Warren to use more subtle tactics. Quibbles were raised about just where the three-mile limit was to be drawn. One ship was ruled by admiralty court to be forfeit because it had been chartered for the "coastwise trade," not as a floating casino. Note that, at that time, it was not even necessary to abandon United States registration to conduct gambling operations. Because Earl Warren was a Republican, Roosevelt's Democratic Federal regime wasn't very interested in helping him with his crackdown.

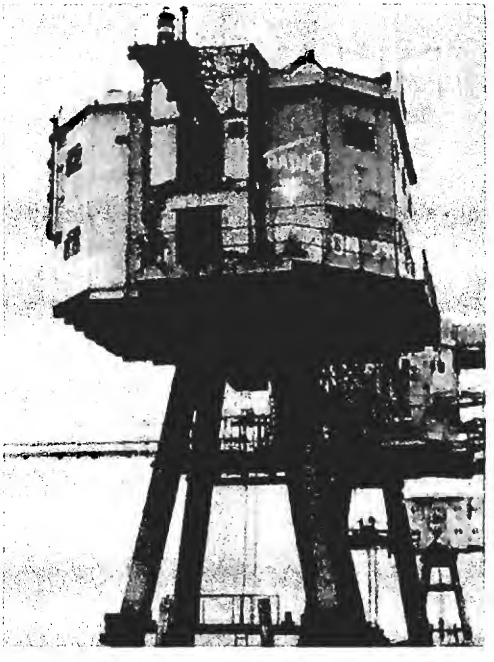
The gambling operators were talking of going to foreign flags when World War II broke out. The "war emergency" and ensuing near-panic on the West Coast were used as an excuse to shut down the ships summarily. After the war, a Federal law was finally passed making it illegal for a United States citizen or resident to own a gambling ship, or for anyone to transport people between the United States and a gambling ship, regardless of nationality or residence. In the light of subsequent United States Supreme Court decisions regarding the freedom of American citizens to travel abroad, such a ban could likely be defeated on a challenge. But then other measures to harass the ship doubtless would be taken. In any case, with the spread of legalized casinos onshore, the long-term prospects for casino ships appear limited.

In the 1960's, a new form of offshore activity emerged. Commercial radio as known in the United States didn't exist in Europe at the time. With few exceptions, all that was to be heard were staid government stations. Then a ship named *Veronica* dropped anchor just off the Dutch coast, with a transmitter beaming programming filled with the latest popular music. Advertisers eagerly bought up all available time at premium rates, and imitators soon followed in the Scandinavian and British markets. There was even a ship off New Zealand. At first, there was considerable violence between ships; however, the practice of maintaining 24-hour watches soon reduced that greatly, though scattered incidents have continued right down to the present (see the discussion of Sealand above).

The governments of Europe were outraged, and applied the pejorative term "pirates" to the broadcasters, a term with which they weren't entirely unhappy — due to its romantic connotations.



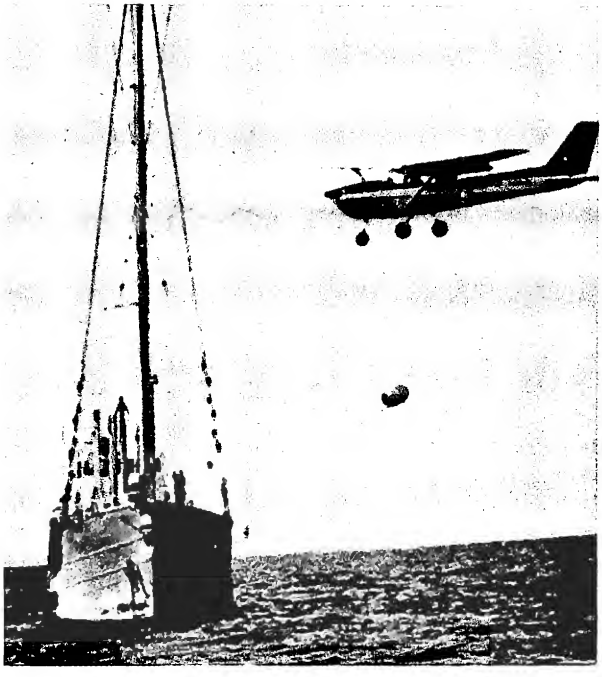
Shivering Sands anti-aircraft "fort" in the North Sea, a sister tower to the site of Sealand (from* When Pirates Ruled the Waves*).



Close-up view of Shivering Sands tower (from* When Pirates Ruled the Waves*).

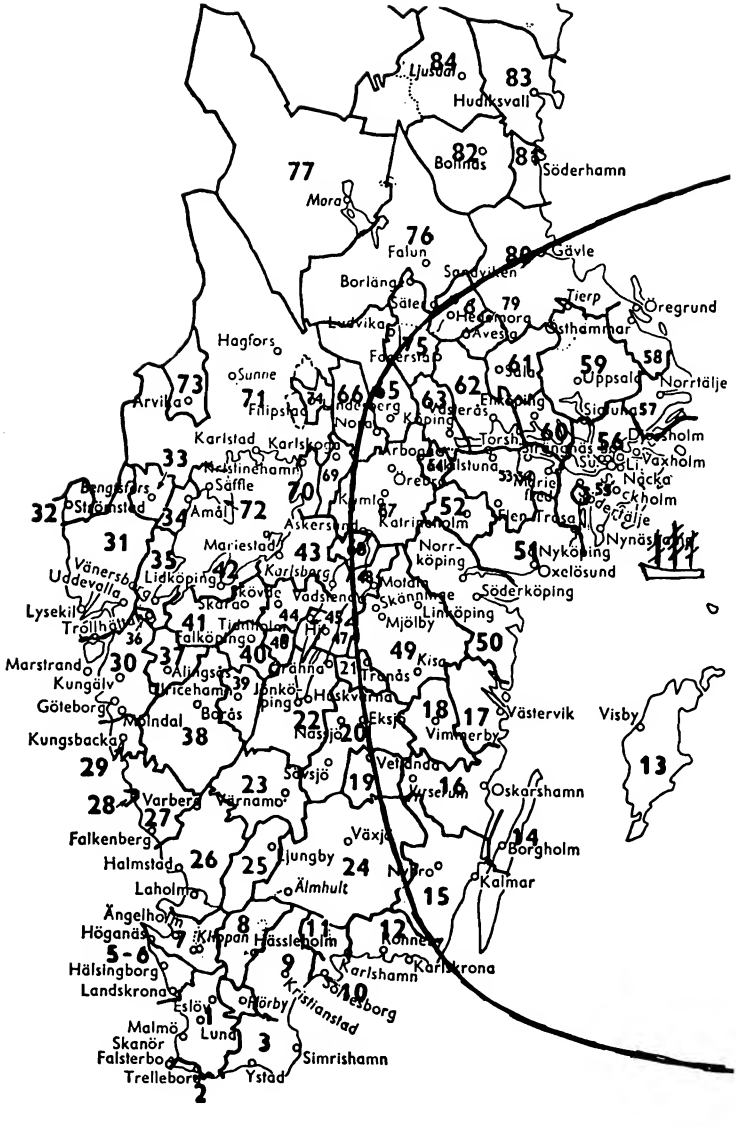
Attempts were made to jam the ships' transmissions, but the public outcry was too great. Telephone service to the ships was cut off. International agreements were entered into to ban broadcasting from ships, but the African country of Sierra Leone chose to offer its flag as a flag of convenience rather than subscribe to the treaties. The Dutch broadcasters, the first on the field, proved too popular to suppress. At last report, they were still at it (although now operating under gentlemen's agreements with each other (reported to be some 30 in number) and the onshore stations, so that they aren't much different from the onshore popular music stations that now operate in Europe).

The British finally knocked their offshore broadcasters off the air by banning advertising on them by firms doing business in the



Airmail delivery to the Radio Nord "pirate" radio ship off Sweden (from **The Radio Nord Story***).*

Measuring the signal strength of Radio Nord (from **The Radio Nord Story***).*



Claimed reception area of Radio Nord (from* The Radio Nord Story*).

United Kingdom. In the wake of this, plans were afoot for the stations to get advertising from the overseas branches of multinational firms (whose local operations could deny all complicity in the broadcasting), and from American religious groups wishing to broadcast evangelical programs. But then the coup de grace was delivered: the opening of popular music stations on land.

Some opportunities in this direction may still remain. The Dutch operators, for example, have developed a method of beaming television programming onto the existing cable-TV system, after that system has shut down for the night. However, these operations are likely to require a high degree of technical and financial expertise. In August of 1983, a British offshore radio station using the call of Radio Caroline (the most famous of the British "pirate" stations) was reported to be on the air again.

In the early 1970's, I headed up an effort to organize a twist on the old casino ships, in an operation code-named Jolly Roger. The idea was to take bets on sporting events by citizens' band radio, then enjoying a boom. Bettors would establish an account with an onshore office in Panama. To place a bet, the account holder would call a ship stationed just outside territorial waters on his CB, give identification codes, and make selections. Losses would be automatically deducted from the account, and winnings added. Withdrawals could be requested by mail or radio.

However, the operation was marginally capitalized, and the party owning the ship that was to be chartered for the operation backed out at the last minute. There was some interest in continuing, on the part of Central American financial interests. However, the whole scene was becoming rather too heavy for my tastes, and I decided that actually bringing such a venture off wasn't turning out to be nearly as much fun as the planning of it had been. If anyone wants to resume attempts to organize such a venture, I can be contacted as shown at the start of the Access chapter.

Recently, there was a scheme to put a floating brothel off the Texas Gulf Coast, promoted by Walter Plankinton, the man who owned the most notorious legal brothel in the United States (the

Chicken Ranch, located in Nye County, Nevada, after being closed down as an illegal brothel in the Gulf Coast area of Texas). It was to have been combined with a casino on the British cruise ship Shacelton. The reason cited was trouble with Arizona authorities, although their jurisdiction in the matter is unclear (Mr. Plankinton is a resident of Arizona).

SHIRE OF BURKE — See **BURKE, SHIRE OF**

SHOAL, ALICE — See **ALICE SHOAL**

SHOALS, SILVER — See **ATLANTIS, OPERATION**

SILVER ISLE — See **ATLANTIS, ISLE OF GOLD**

SILVER SHOALS — See **ATLANTIS, OPERATION**

SIMIBATI — See **M'SIMIBATI**

SOCIETY — See name of society (e.g., for **SOCIETY OF SAINTS**, see **SAINTS, SOCIETY OF**)

SONGHRATI-MEADS, MORAC — See **SPRATLY ISLANDS**

SPACE CITY

This is one of a number of amateur groups trying to organize space enthusiasts, with a view to the ultimate establishment of self-contained space colonies in orbit around the Earth. The address for this project (as of 1983) is Infinity Explorations, c/o Michael Kember, 557 N. Mariposa, Los Angeles CA 90004, telephone (213)664-6924. This activity and others like it are distinguished from the larger-scale groups promoting space colonization (such as the L-5 Society) in that they explicitly seek political independence.

SPRATLY ISLANDS

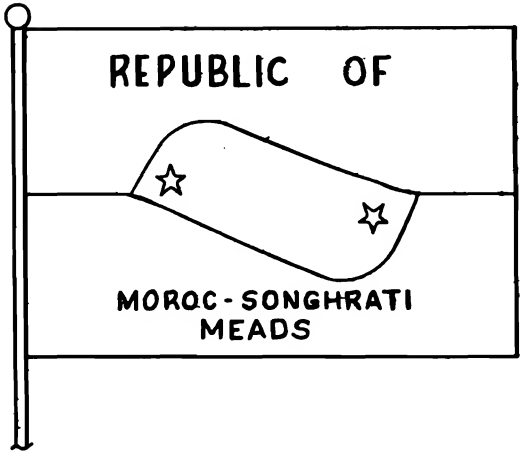
This is a group of small, uninhabited (except for military garrisons and other transients) islands in the South China Sea,

also known as Loia Ta. The principal reason for contemporary interest in them is that oil is thought to lie under the seabed in that area. They are claimed by China (both Nationalist and Communist), Vietnam and the Philippines. The disputed status has encouraged a number of new-country promoters to make claims in the area, even though all four of the above powers have troops stationed on one or more of the islands.

Between 1863 and 1879, a British Admiral James George Mead is said (by his heirs) to have discovered the islands and claimed them for himself. Later, he supposedly sold his rights to an American cousin, Franklin M. Meads, who proclaimed the "Franklin M. Meads Territory." This same Meads also made claims to just about every territory that has ever been claimed by Spain, including Antarctica, alleging that Spain never paid a $5 million debt to an ancestor William Kidder Meade. In 1914, Meads proclaimed the Kingdom of Humanity as the government of the Spratlys, and named Willis Alva Bryant as King Willi. King Willi was later reported drowned in a typhoon.

In the 1950's. Thomas A. Cloma, a Philippine fisherman, proclaimed a "Free Territory of Freedomland" in the Spratlys, to the continuing displeasure of the Philippine government, which has arrested him from time to time ever since. The Philippines base their claim to the islands largely on Cloma's activities, and want him to acknowledge them as the beneficiaries of his claims, which he has so far refused to do.

Meanwhile, the Meads claim passed to Franklin's son Josiah, and thence to his son Morton. Morton Meads claims to have actually lived on the islands for some time following World War II, when he was discharged from the military in the Philippines. The Philippine government claims he never left that country, nor has he visited the islands. Meads supports his claims with a document purporting to be a cession of rights from an Indonesian sultan named Songhrati, and numerous other documents, the signatures on all of which are said to bear an "amazing resemblance" to that of Meads. In 1954, Meads proclaimed the Monarchical Republic of Morac-Songhrati-Meads, with himself as King, and has since sold oil rights to Flying Tigers Oil Company, whose address is given as c/o A-1 Tax Service, 2540



The flag of the Republic of Moroc-Songhrati Meads, from* The Flag Bulletin, *XVII:6 (courtesy International Micropatrological Society).

East Indian School Road, Phoenix AZ. John Hivner (whose signature again looks familiar) is listed as the president. This outfit lists assets of $200 billion, $149.00 of which was in cash (as of 1976). Both Meads and the oil company are represented in the Philippines by the same Manila lawyer, Jose Beltran Sotto. Meanwhile, Meads continues to emit a blizzard of papers in the form of lawsuits, declarations of war, and the like (all with similar signatures, it is said), in a classic example of the litigation approach described in the previous chapters. Another address for Meads is Walter Hutchinson, of Flying Tigers International, Box 1094, Manila, Philippines.

In 1978, John Barnes (of Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, United Kingdom) was hauled into the Old Bailey in London. The authorities said that (styling himself King John de Mariveles, sovereign of Colonia) he had conspired to bilk the Bank of England by obtaining money against oil rights in the Spratlys (the territory claimed by Colonia). He was said to have been assisted in this scheme by one or more Bank of England employees. Rather

than try to prove directly that King John's claims were worthless (a difficult task, at best), he was charged with violations for claiming foreign-investment tax breaks in connection with the transaction. No money actually ever changed hands.

STATE — See name of state

STREAM REPUBLIC, INDIAN — See **INDIAN STREAM REPUBLIC**

STREATORVILLE

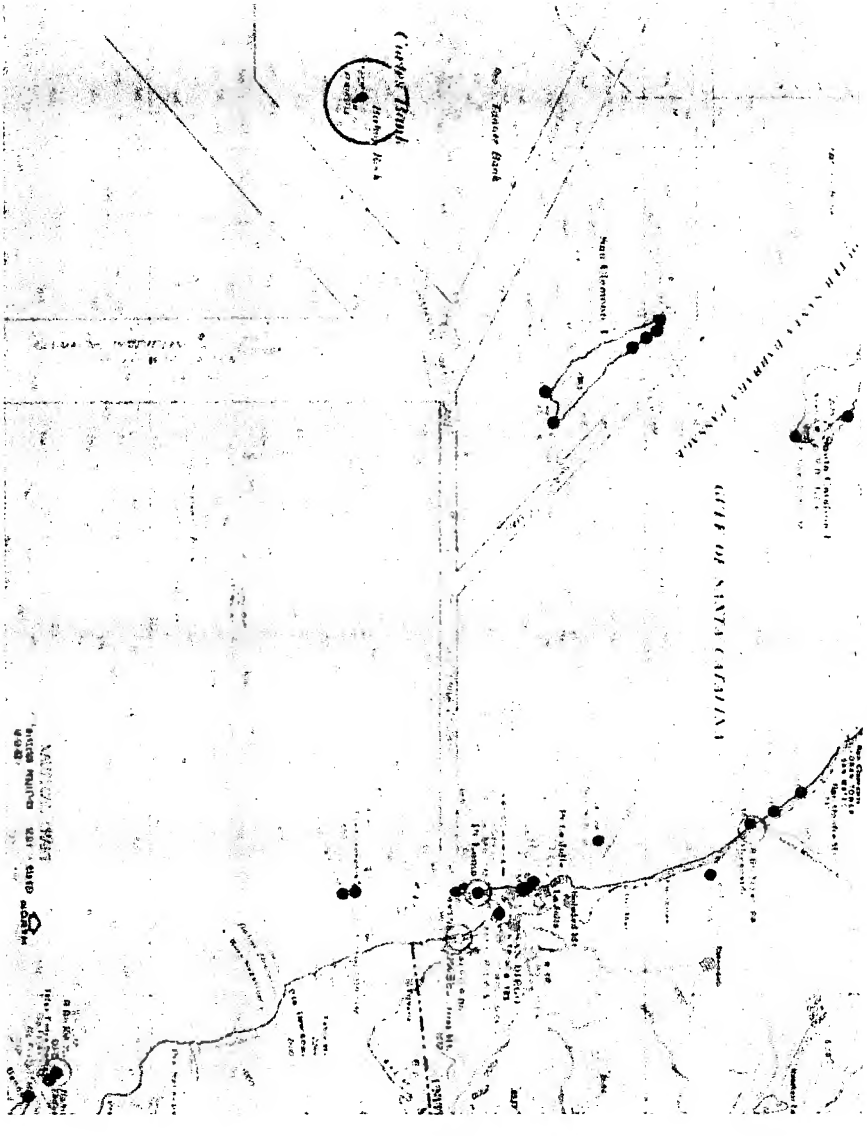
In the 19th Century, some dredging spoils in Lake Michigan were dumped near the shore, where they built up new land. A Captain Streator promptly claimed the land, declaring that it was not part of any existing jurisdiction. He apparently had the political clout to see to it that there wasn't any undue haste in changing that state of affairs. It became a wide-open district, notorious far and wide. Eventually, things got so out of hand that the National Guard was called in to shut the place down. Today, it's part of Chicago, where there is still a Streatorville Street.

SULTANATE — See name of sultanate

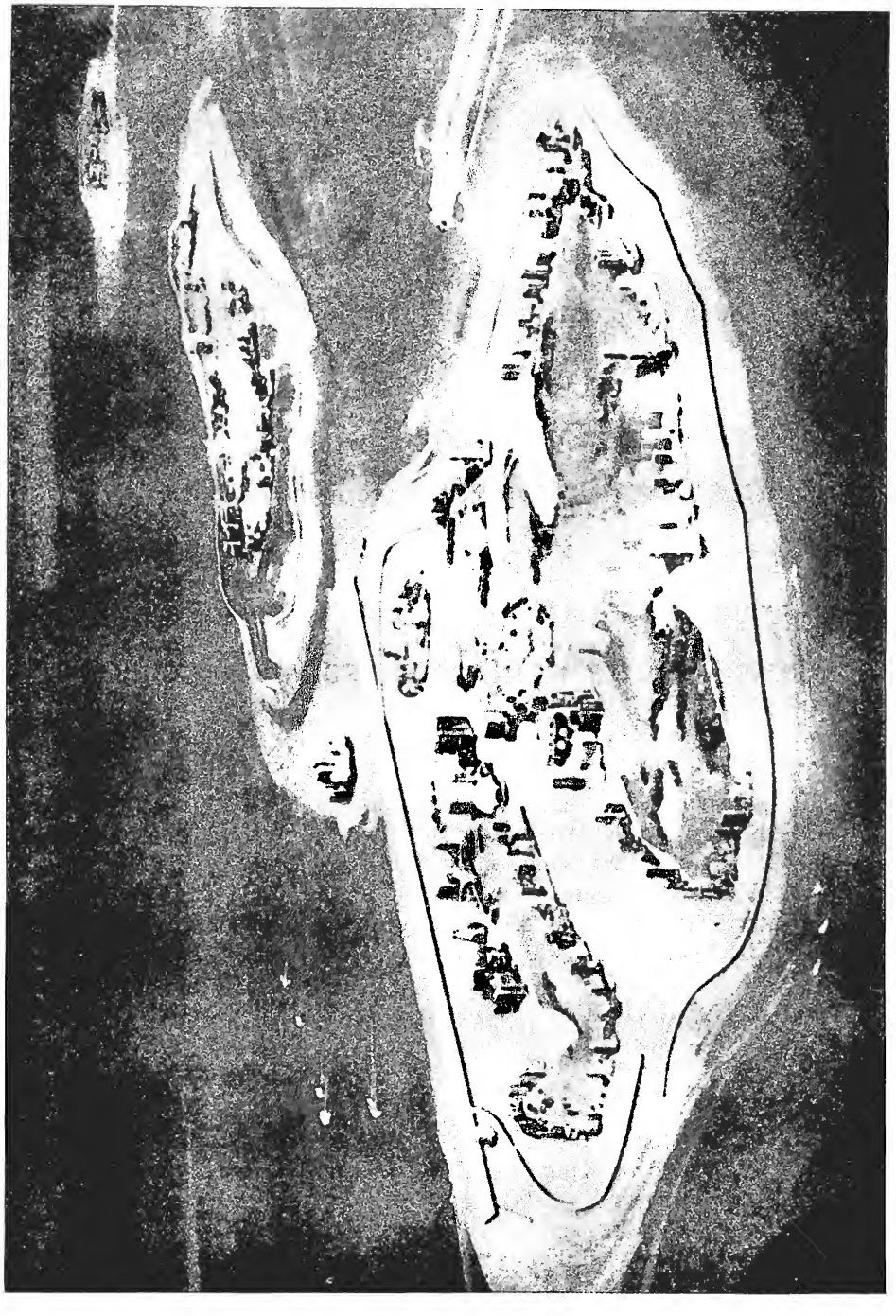
TA, LOIA — See **SPRATLY ISLANDS**

TALUGA

This country was to have been built up in the Cortez Bank, an area of shallow water in the Pacific Ocean about one hundred miles west of the junction of the United States and Mexico. It was promoted through the Cortez Development Company of Bellevue WA. This company was founded in 1959 by an American engineer named Edward M. deSarro. He seems to have put about a quarter million of his own dollars into drawing up plans, and having legal work done. As in so many of these projects, a vast amount of legal theory was published, citing well-known and obscure sources, all purporting to support the legal viability of Taluga as an independent nation. These documents make interesting reading, but one gets the impression that their main effect will be confined



Cortez Bank, proposed site of Taluga, in relation to North America (from Cortez Development Corporation).



Artist's conception of Taluga (from Cortez Development Corporation).

to the bank accounts of the lawyers who drew them up. Taluga was projected to require a quarter of a billion dollars ($250 million) for its completion, money that was never forthcoming.

A visit to Bellevue in 1969 found the office staffed by a junior-level person. The talk was of financial negotiations in progress, and grand development plans. However, later attempts to contact the office proved futile, and it appears that deSarro's money has run out.

TANZANIA — See **M'SIMIBATI**

TERRITORY/TERRITORIES — See name of territory

TOWNSHIP — See **COMMON LAW** or name of township

TORTUGA — See **ATLANTIS, OPERATION**

TRANS-ANTARCTIC TREATIES INFORMATION BUREAU — See **MEVU**

TRANSCAUCASIA, KINGDOM OF

This is yet another European title-oriented model-country project from some years back. Louis Leon, also known as Laforge de Vitanal, claimed lands in the Caucasus. Operating in Britain and France, he issued a constitution and created Dukes and Counts. There were reports of stamps having been issued, but none could be located in 1970.

TREATIES INFORMATION BUREAU, TRANS-ANTARCTIC — See **MEVU**

TRINIDAD, PRINCIPALITY OF

James Aloyisius, Baron Harden-Hickey, was a French royalist who claimed to be King (not Prince) James I of this principality, located on some rocks 700 miles off the southern coast of Brazil (and not to be confused with the existing nation of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean). He was a Buddhist, and achieved recognition by some South American states. Eventually, the rocks

were taken by Brazil and the United Kingdom, and King James committed suicide.

TURKS AND CAICOS — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

TUSKET ISLANDS — See **BALDONIA, OUTER**

U.K.A. — See **ARYA**

UKA — See **ARYA**

UNITED KINGDOM OF ARYA — See **ARYA**

UNITED MOORISH REPUBLIC

A group of Black Muslims living in a communal house in Washington DC proclaimed themselves the United Moorish Republic, under Col. Hasan Jeru-Ahmed. The address of the house is 1642 and 1701 Newton St. NW, Washington DC 20010.

VANUATU — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

VEMERANA — See **OLIVER, MICHAEL J.**

VONU — See **FREE ISLES**

WEST REFAIM — See **REFAIM, WEST**

WEST ANTARCTICA — See **ANTARCTICA, WEST**

WHITE PASHA

This is a story of the last century. According to scuttlebutt among sailors, a Scotsman set himself up on a South Pacific island, and went around South Seas ports shanghaing women to populate his harem. He was said to have built a castle on the island, complete with a dungeon for holding his concubines. There were supposed to have been a couple of eunuchs as armed guards. His demise is said to have come when a daring band of love-sick sailors raided the island, each carrying off one of the women as his

bride. This is the sort of fantasy that has underlain many new country schemes, so even if the story is apocryphal, it is archetypical.

WORLD HOMESTEADING ASSOCIATION, LIBERTY — See ANTARCTIC HOMESTEADING

WORLD POWER FOUNDATION

This operation first surfaced in 1980 under the name of "Secession 1985," but as of 1983 there appeared to have been no concrete progress. It falls into the category of neo-Nazi projects like those described above, but is distinguished by the publication of three books describing its program, which are available from Loompanics (see the Access chapter). These books are puported to have been "never intended for mass publication," but to have been "discovered" by a researcher and published to warn the world. More likely, the author is either seeking followers to pursue the plan presented, or is catering to his own and/or other peoples' appetites for power fantasies. It's very possible that the line between these two is not at all that clear in the author's mind.

Overall, the tone is one of reveling in Machiavellian cynicism. The cover of the first book shows a hooded, grinning figure plunging a sword into a world globe with one hand, while gold coins drip from the other. It proposes four operating divisions. One is to be military force. Another is to be devoted to taking over governments. The third is to be dedicated to financial maneuvers. The final one is aimed at securing a territorial base spanning Latin America. All are to disrupt and destroy as much of existing nations as possible. Appendices describe how a corporation is to be established in the United States to further the goals of the World Power Foundation and take over the Federal government.

The second book is the largest, and its cover continues the theme, showing the hooded figure with the sword holding a balance scale, gold and jewels in one pan balancing naked slaves in chains in the other. It is devoted more to overall philosophy and esthetics than to specific action programs. Chapter headings include "The Joy of Predation" and "Our Kind of Slavery." Five

anciliary "documents" are included, three with "Slave" or "Slavery" in the title.

The final document seems intended to tie up loose ends, and depicts a half-naked woman kneeling before the ever-present sword. A basically facist economic theory is presented as the "Command Economy," and "Master Strategies for World Conquest" are laid out, focusing on causing economic and social chaos in the world.

As I said, there is no indication that any action is being taken to implement this.

WORLD SERVICE AUTHORITY

This is a world-citizenship operation. Gary Davis (son of bandleader Meyer Davis) made a splash in the European media in 1948, when he walked into the United States embassy in Paris and renounced his citizenship in protest of the fact that the end of World War II hadn't brought real peace. Since September 4, 1953, he has traveled on a self-created passport in the name of the World Service Authority. This has resulted in frequent legal hassles, and Davis has become a master of the low-cost litigation approach discussed above, always finding obscure loopholes to get himself out of trouble.

He is said to have issued more than a quarter million World Service Authority passports in the last 30 years. He says that six countries recognize them as official, and that others have accepted them from time to time in individual cases. They cost $16 a year, or $36 for three years. He is based in Washington, DC.

ACCESS

This chapter gives sources of use to a new-country organizer. Addresses and telephone numbers of the new-country projects described in the previous chapter are given there, and are not repeated here. As of this writing, my address is Erwin S. Strauss, 9850 Fairfax Square #232E, Fairfax VA 22031, telephone (703)273-6111 (call 10 am to 10 pm only, not collect). Or, I can be contacted through the publisher of this book. The sources are listed in alphabetical order, with cross-referencing. Prices, addresses, etc., are (of course) subject to change without notice.

ART OF COMMUNITY, THE ***by Spencer MacAllum,*** *from Heather Foundation (see below)*

This is the basic book on the proprietary-community form of social organization, under which most services normally provided by government are provided by the landowner, His principal examples are large hotels and shopping centers with leased stores, but the principles apply as well to residential and other land uses.

ATLANTIS CONSTITUTION, OPERATION — See **ORBIS CONSTITUTION**

ATLAS SHRUGGED ***by Ayn Rand,*** *Random House, 1957*

This is the seminal libertarian novel referred to previously, in which a group of key people withdraw from society to a secret enclave, wait for the collapse of society, and then return to rebuild on the ruins.

BASEMENT NUKES: THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHEAP WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ***by Erwin S. Strauss*** *(Loompanics Unlimited (see below) 1980)*

This book covers the basics of building nuclear weapons, and discusses some of the consequences of cheap mass-destruction

weapons of all kinds, including chemical, biological and radiological weapons. Better-capitalized new-country ventures may be interested in acquiring such weapons.

BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW NATION ***by Robert J. Doorn*** *(Exposition Press, 900 S. Oyster Bay Rd., Hicksville NY 11801, or contact the Phoenix Foundation, below)*

This is the constitution proclaimed by the New Hebrides secessionists backed by Michael J. Oliver.

BOATS AND HARBORS, *Drawer 647, Crossville TN 38555. Telephone (615)484-6100 or (615)484-8708*

This is an advertising newspaper sent free on request once a month. It has ads for used marine equipment, and is a good source of cheap equipment for a new-country venture at sea or on an island.

BROADCASTING SHIPS — See **SHIPS**

CINDERELLA PHILATELIST, THE, *Cinderella Stamp Club, L.N. and M. Williams, 30 Duston Rd., London NW11, United Kingdom*

In the stamp-collecting world, "Cinderella" countries are those that appear and disappear rapidly. This includes most new-country ventures. Most of the older projects mentioned in this book were taken from this magazine's pages. M. Williams has reportedly died, and the address is said to be no longer valid.

CIVIL THREAT OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS — See **SUPERVIOLENCE**

COMMUNICATIONS, POPULAR — See **POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS**

COMMUNITY, ART OF — See **ART OF COMMUNITY**

CONNECTION, THE (LIBERTARIAN), *from the author of this book (see start of this chapter for address)*

Sample issue (my choice of number) $1. Back issues (your choice of number, from #80 on; for earlier, see Libertarian/Decentralist Copying Service below) $1.50. Subscriptions $10 per year (8 issues). Outside North America, sample and back issues $2, subscriptions $16 (International Reply Coupons acceptable at $0.30 each).

This is an open-forum publication, to which all subscribers are entitled to submit up to three pages per issue to be printed free, unedited. The contents consist solely of such submissions. There is much discussion of subjects relevant to new countries, such as military strategy and internal organization. Issue #108 presents a theory of history that addresses the coming decline of the nation state.

CONFERENCE — See **FREELAND**

CONSTITUTION, VEMERANA — See **BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW NATION**

CONSTITUTION, NEW COUNTRY — See **NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW COUNTRY**

CONSTITUTION, ORBIS and ATLANTIS — See **ORBIS CONSTITUTION**

COPYING SERVICE, LIBERTARIAN/DECENTRALIST — See **LIBERTARIAN/DECENTRALIST COPYING SERVICE**

CORPORATION MAN ***by Anthony Jay*** *(Pocket Books, 1973)*

This is an application of recent developments in evolutionary theory to social organization (see also *The Selfish Gene*, below). The author concludes that only groups of no more than ten people (give or take seven) are able to actually perform functions effectively. When larger groups are given responsibility, either a subgroup takes effective control and the others go along, or the functions are subdivided and smaller groups handle each subdivision.

This group size evolved when people lived in small bands of a few dozen or so. Many modern institutions are geared to make the individual feel that he is still in such a group. For example, people are encouraged to speak up on the "issues of the day," to write letters to their elected officials, and so on. If there were indeed only ten or so other people involved in making a given decision, then indeed such action might have a significant chance of influencing the decision. If one didn't prevail, one could resonably expect to prevail on other issues later, and thus feel satisfied with the overall process.

But of course there are hundreds of millions of people in a major modern nation, not a few dozen, so that the ordinary individual has no significant effect on decision-making processes. Widespread realization of this would tend to undermine the authority of existing governments, leading people to question why they should render up their blood (through wartime conscription) and treasure (through taxes) to those governments.

COUNTRY, NEW — See **NEW CONSTITUTION**

COUP D'ETAT ***by Edward Luttwak*** *(Harvard University Press, 1979)*

If you can command the support of a group within an existing country that is in a minority, but is wealthier and better armed than the majority, this is a handbook on how to take over the country. It includes detailed strategy, with typical city maps showing how to position forces, and so on. If you can command the support of the larger (but weaker and poorer) group, see *Guerrilla Warfare*, below.

DECENTRALIST COPYING SERVICE — See **LIBERTARIAN/DECENTRALIST COPYING SERVICE**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE — See **GEOGRAPHER OF THE UNITED STATES**

DESERTED ISLANDS, UNINHABITED AND — See **UNINHABITED AND DESERTED ISLANDS**

DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, MASS — See **WEAPONS**

D'ETAT, COUP — See **COUP D'ETAT**

EARTH, LAST FRONTIERS ON — See **LAST FRONTIERS ON EARTH**

ETAT, COUP D' — See **COUP D'ETAT**

FREELAND, *c/o Rampart Institute, Box 4, Fullerton CA 92632. Telephone c/o Athena, (714)979-5737*

This was a conference of new-country people held April 23, 1983. Future conferences may be planned.

FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD, HOW I — See **HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD**

FOUNDATION — See name of foundation

FREE, LIVING — See **LIVING FREE**

FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD, HOW I FOUND — See **HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD**

FRONTIER, HIGH — See **HIGH FRONTIER**

FRONTIERS ON EARTH, LAST — See **LAST FRONTIERS ON EARTH**

GENE, SELFISH — See **SELFISH GENE**

GEOGRAPHER OF THE UNITED STATES, *Department of State, Washington DC 20025*

When a new country sends requests to the United States for recognition, this is where they end up. This office maintains a file of these documents, which can be seen by the public (although the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act may have to be followed).

GRUNDY'S TAX HAVENS ***by Milton Grundy*** *(Matthew Bender & Co.)*

I have the 1972 edition, but there may be a later one available. This lists a number of small countries worldwide that provide ship registrations, corporate charters, secret banking, and other services useful to a new country. For new countries thinking of getting into the tax-haven business, this gives an idea of the competition that exists.

GUERRILLA WARFARE ***by Ernesto (Che) Guevara*** *(Random House, 1965)*

If you can command support of the majority of people in an area, but with little wealth or power, this is the definitive text on organizing them to take over. If your support lies with the wealthier, better-armed class, see the book *Coup d'Etat* above.

HARBORS, BOATS AND — See **BOATS AND HARBORS**

HAVENS, GRUNDY'S TAX — See **GRUNDY'S TAX HAVENS**

HEATHER FOUNDATION, *Box 48, San Pedro CA 90733; telephone (213)831-6269*

This is Spencer MacAllum's operation. Various books and articles mentioned in this book are available here. This has also been given as a contact point for Operation Atlantis, discussed previously.

HIGH FRONTIER, THE ***by Gerard K. O'Neill*** *(Morrow, 1975)*

This is the basic work on the colonization of space itself (as opposed to the surface of planets). It is also available through the L-5 Society (below).

HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD ***by Harry Browne*** *(Avon, 1974)*

This book is a useful exercise in learning to think of oneself as independent of any existing nation, although the author is rather

too harsh for my taste in rejecting any sort of cooperation with other people.

I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD, HOW — See **HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD**

INTERNATIONAL MICROPATROLOGICAL SOCIETY, *c/o Frederick W. Lehmann, 4554 McPherson Ave., Saint Louis MO 63108, or c/o Christopher Martin, 130 Wooton Rd., King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, United Kingdom*

These people make a hobby of keeping track of small countries, both established ones (like Monaco and Liechtenstein) and new countries. "Micropatrology" is their word for "the study of small countries." Many of the case histories in this book came from their files, which are considerably more detailed than the thumbnail sketches here.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMPANY, *Apartado 7440, Panama 5, Republic of Panama*

This is an operation that specializes in setting up corporations, getting ship registrations, and otherwise helping people take advantage of the tax-haven and related services provided by Panama.

ISLANDS, UNINHABITED AND DESERTED — See **UNINHABITED AND DESERTED ISLANDS**

L-5 SOCIETY, *1620 N. Park, Tuscon, AZ 85719*

This is the leading group promoting the colonization of space, although they are more oriented to getting existing governments to get involved than in promoting independent communities.

LAND, FREE — See **FREELAND**

LAST FRONTIERS ON EARTH: STRANGE PLACES WHERE YOU CAN LIVE FREE, *by Dr. Jon Fisher* *(Loompanics Unlimited — see below)*

This is useful for those considering the "vonu" approach

discussed previously. It covers the polar regions, the oceans, nomadic living, and hiding out in cities, caves, ghost towns and deserts.

LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION — See **CONNECTION**

LIBERTARIAN/DECENTRALIST COPYING SERVICE, *c/o Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo NY 14223*

This service has copies of a number of the newsletters describing new-country projects, including *Preform/Inform* (of the Free Isles project), its successors *Vonulife* and *Vonulinc*, the *Liberal Innovator, Ocean Living* and *Atlantis News.* Also available are issues of *The (Libertarian) Connection* prior to #80. Charges are generally $0.40 per page at this writing (checks payable to "Jim Stumm").

LIVING FREE *($7 for 6 issues (checks payable to "Jim Stumm"), same address as Libertarian/Decentralist Copying Service, above)*

This is a newsletter of primary interest to people following a "vonu" approach, either as nomads or in a fixed location.

LOOMPANICS UNLIMITED, *Box 1197, Port Townsend WA 98368*

This is the publisher of this book and a number of others cited. Others of their books are also of potential interest to new-country promoters. Send $2.00 for complete catalog.

MAN, CORPORATION — See **CORPORATION MAN**

MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS — See **WEAPONS**

MICROPATROLOGICAL SOCIETY, INTERNATIONAL — See **INTERNATIONAL MICROPATROLOGICAL SOCIETY**

NEW CONSTITUTION — See **BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW COUNTRY**

NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW COUNTRY, *by Michael J. Oliver*

An early constitution devised by Oliver. Order from the author (see Case Histories chapter for address).

NEW NATION, BLUEPRINT FOR A — See **BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW NATION**

NORD STORY, RADIO — See **RADIO NORD STORY**

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND, Issues 1-10, *by Michael Dunn* *(Franson Publications, 4291 Van Dyke Place, San Diego, CA 92116, out of print)*

These essays describe the Oceana venture.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS — See **BASEMENT NUKES**

NUKES, BASEMENT — See **BASEMENT NUKES**

OPERATION ATLANTIS CONSTITUTION — See **ORBIS CONSTITUTION**

ORBIS CONSTITUTION *(From the Heather Foundation, above)*

This is the master lease agreement prepared for Operation Atlantis, but ascribed to a hypothetical space colony for security reasons.

PEACE PLANS, *c/o John Zube, 7 Oxley St., Berrima, New South Wales 2577, Australia*

John Zube is a pacifist idealist who publishes huge quantities of material in microform. The *Peace Plans* series addresses ways for disputes between nations to be settled without war (includes negotiation, arbitration, Ghandian resistance, etc.). Many of the techniques could be useful to a new country, though taken all together they still don't impress me as a substitute for physical force and the willingness to use it.

PHILATELIST, CINDERELLA — See **CINDERELLA PHILATELIST**

PHOENIX FOUNDATION, *Box 5084, 1007 AB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

This group was active in the New Hebrides affair, and is generally interested in tracking libertarian-oriented new-country projects, as well as libertarian trends in existing countries.

"PIRATE" RADIO — See **RADIO**

PIRATES RULED THE WAVES, WHEN — See **WHEN PIRATES RULED THE WAVES**

PLANS, PEACE — See **PEACE PLANS**

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS, *76 North Broadway, Hicksville NY 11801*

This is a magazine for amateur radio enthusiasts, who like to listen to short-wave radio stations from as many different countries as possible. Therefore, it is interested in new-country ventures, even short-lived ones, and from time to time runs an article listing those it currently knows about.

PRINCE, THE ***by Niccolo Machiavelli*** *(New American Library)*

This is still the classic work on statecraft, though centuries old, by the man whose name is synonymous with the subject. Its cynicism is a healthy antidote to prevailing cliches put out by existing governments that they're doing it all for the good of the people.

RADIO — See **RADIO NORD STORY** and **WHEN PIRATES RULED THE WAVES**

RADIO NORD STORY, THE ***by Jack Kotschak*** *(1963, Impulse Publication — now out of print, publisher out of business)*

This is an account of one of the early "pirate" radio operations in Europe, this one off the coast of Sweden.

RAND, AYN — See **ATLAS SHRUGGED**

SALE, SOVEREIGNTY FOR — See **SOVEREIGNTY FOR SALE**

SELFISH GENE, THE ***by Richard Dawkins*** *(Oxford University Press, 1978)*

An analysis of evolution in terms of game theory — looking at the courses of action open to an organism, and determining the rewards and costs of each. In the long run, those that choose the most profitable course will outcompete others, and be the only form surviving. The same principles apply to competition between nations and other social, cultural, political, etc., systems. A key lesson is that there are rarely two entities (organisms, nations, etc.) whose interests are so close that they never conflict; therefore, one must always be ready to look out for one's own interests. Equally, there are rarely two entities whose interests are so at odds that there isn't some common ground; therefore, one should usually look for a way to leave an opponent some way out of a confrontation that he can live with.

SERVICE, LIBERTARIAN/DECENTRALIST COPYING — See **LIBERTARIAN/DECENTRALIST COPYING SERVICE**

SHIPS — See **RADIO**

SMALL COUNTRIES — See **INTERNATIONAL MICROPATROLOGICAL SOCIETY**

SOCIETY — See name of society

SOVEREIGNTY FOR SALE ***by Rodney P. Carlisle*** *(Naval Institute Press, 1981)*

This book traces the history of the flags of convenience used to operate on the high seas essentially independent of any existing nation.

STATE DEPARTMENT, UNITED STATES — See **GEOGRAPHER OF THE UNITED STATES**

STORY, RADIO NORD — See **RADIO NORD STORY**

SUPERVIOLENCE: THE CIVIL THREAT OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS *(NTIS Report AD-896 623/6 GA, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield VA 22161, 1972)*

This is a government-sponsored survey of the public literature on nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons. By this time, its information of nuclear weapons has been made obsolete by the disclosures recounted in *Basement Nukes* (above), but the portions on the other weapons are said to provide quite reliable how-to-do-it details.

TAX HAVENS, GRUNDY'S — See **GRUNDY'S TAX HAVENS**

TELEVISION — See **RADIO**

THREAT OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, CIVIL — See **SUPERVIOLENCE**

UNFREE WORLD, HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN — See **HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD**

UNINHABITED AND DESERTED ISLANDS ***by Jon Fisher*** *(Loompanics Unlimited, 1983)*

A useful gazeteer for those prospecting for new-country sites. Gives details of geography, resources, history, etc., of over 150 uninhabited and deserted islands. Includes maps.

UNITED STATES, GEOGRAPHER OF THE — See **GEOGRAPHER OF THE UNITED STATES**

UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT — See **GEOGRAPHER OF THE UNITED STATES**

VONU:THE SEARCH FOR PERSONAL FREEDOM ***by Rayo, edited by Jon Fisher*** *(Loompanics Unlimited, 1983)*

This is a collection of writings on the theory and practice of "vonu" (living out of sight and mind of the authorities), written by its leading philosopher and practitioner.

WARFARE, GUERRILLA — See **GUERRILLA WARFARE**

WAVES, WHEN PIRATES RULED THE — See **WHEN PIRATES RULED THE WAVES**

WEAPONS — See **BASEMENT NUKES** and **SUPERVIOLENCE**

WHEN PIRATES RULED THE WAVES ***by Paul Harris*** *(1969, Impulse Publications — out of print, publisher out of business)*

The best overall history of the "pirate" radio ships off Europe in the 1960's. Includes photographs.

WORLD, HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE — See **HOW I FOUND FREEDOM IN AN UNFREE WORLD**

YOU WILL ALSO WANT TO READ:

☐ **17024** **UNINHABITED AND DESERTED ISLANDS, *by Jon Fisher.*** This unique book covers more than 150 uninhabited and deserted islands in the remote regions of the world, from the Pacific Ocean to the Antarctic, from the Atlantic to the Indian Oceans. Each island is described as to history and physical conditions, and maps are included to show the exact location of each uninhabited island. ***1983, 5½ x 8½, 116 pp, more than 40 maps, indexed, soft cover. $7.95.***

☐ **14046** **HOW TO BUY LAND CHEAP, *by Edward Preston.*** This classic book covers *all* the ways of buying land at rock-bottom prices. Where to start, what to do, buying land for back taxes, buying land at auctions, buying tax land in Canada, inside tips, and much more. ***1981, 8½ x 11, 36 pp, illustrated, soft cover. $4.95.***

☐ **17025** **VONU: The Search for Personal Freedom, *by Rayo, edited by Jon Fisher.*** Rayo was an early pioneer of libertarian theory, he coined the term "vonu" (invulnerability to coercion), and discussed non-political means of achieving freedom here and now. This book covers the theory of vonu as well as the *practice*, drawing on Rayo's experiences as a van nomad and wilderness dweller. ***1983, 5½ x 8½, 112 pp, illustrated, soft cover. $5.95.***

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